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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a merger of the Covenant Party and the Republican Party?

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School Visit

Yuletide carols ring from the rafters of the Aging Center in Garapan.

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Pay cut exemptions list to be trimmed

Elected GOPs opposed to Fitial's 'merger' proposal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Republican lawmakers are opposed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's proposal to have a merger of the Republican and Covenant parties and want to meet with GOP officers prior to a tentative Dec. 21 general membership meeting.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he, just like other Republicans, welcomes anybody who wants to join the Republican Party but said

"I think it is an insult for us to accept the merger. ...It's a slap in the face."

—Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan)

the idea of combining two parties together with different principles is a dif-

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the list of employees exempted from the 16-hour pay cut per pay period will be trimmed, pending the completion of an ongoing review of the policy.

Among those exempted from the pay cuts are police officers, corrections officers, firefighters, doctors and nurses.

Inos said there have been "misunderstandings" as to how the exemption works, adding that it is not supposed to be a "wholesale exemption."

He said that just because these positions are exempted or will get paid when they work during so-called austerity holidays does not mean that they should get paid even on days when they don't work.

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Inos



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, acting governor Steven George (Kosrae), Gov. Sebastian Anefal (Yap), President Emanuel Mori (FSM), President Johnson Toribiong (Palau), President Jurelang Zedkaia (RMI), Gov. Benigno R. Fitial (CNMI), Gov. John Ehsa (Pohnpei), Gov. Wesley Simina (Chuuk) and Gov. Felix Camacho (Guam) pose for the official 14th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit group photo.

Fitial leads change of command at 14th MCES

» Micronesian leaders begin tackling current issues

KOROR, Palau—The chief executives of the nine jurisdictions of Micronesia have officially assembled, calling to order the 14th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit here in the pristine Republic of Palau.

At exactly 9:30am, an illustrious traditional opening ceremony began with traditional dances, chants and the

blowing of the "desbusch" or the conch shell. CNMI's Gov. Benigno R. Fitial then officially relinquished the MCES chairmanship and turned over the leadership post to Palau President Johnson Toribiong.

Following the opening ceremonies and the change of command, each of the chief executives delivered their re-

marks to the delegates and participants. All the heads of state of the region highlighted the importance of sustaining the regional collaboration that has been established by way of the Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit.

Fitial reminded the jurisdictions of the significant and historic meeting of the Micronesian leaders and the Region

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OPA issues report on AG probe

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor released the results of its investigation on Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham and the Office of the Attorney General, results

of which remain confidential but sources said yesterday the report includes findings that the AG acted improperly when he hosted a campaign gathering for delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho of the Covenant Party.

Buckingham is currently on vacation and won't be back until January.

Public Auditor Michael Pai, when asked for comment, said yesterday that a "confidential report was sent to the gov-

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Buckingham



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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *Terms and conditions apply

Local

147 checks disbursed to SHEFA scholars

» Over a hundred grant-in-aid recipients still awaiting assistance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A total of 147 checks for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance scholars were disbursed yesterday to recipients, according to administrator Henry S. Hofschneider yesterday.

Of these checks, 63 were for off-island recipients while 84 checks were for on-island scholars, including 12 students at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

Hofschneider said the 147 checks only cover the grant-in-aid program, which provides

assistance worth \$2,000 to off-island scholars, \$1,200 to on-island students, and \$800 to NMTI scholars.

Saipan Tribune learned that 132 grant-in-aid scholars have yet to receive their checks as of yesterday. Hofschneider said that processing of these pending

checks will be next on their list.

"We're communicating with Finance and Treasury on a daily basis...and it's our goal to complete the disbursement of all grant-in-aid checks soon," said Hofschneider.

He said some checks have already been picked up by scholars since Monday, while others

have already been mailed out to off-island recipients.

The delay in the issuance of awards was earlier blamed on the government's cash-flow problem and low collection from poker fees.

During last week's board meeting, SHEFA disclosed that a significant number of recipients of three scholarship programs have yet to receive their assistance for the fall semester.

Records show that for the fall semester, 117 new on-island students were given grant-in-aid checks out of the 158 eligible for the grant, while 113 ongoing on-island students have so far been issued checks out of the 191 eligible scholars.

Of the 66 new off-island students eligible for the grant-in-aid, 55 have been issued checks, while 214 ongoing off-island students have already gotten theirs.

NMC eyes revisions to its policy manual

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has proposed several changes to its existing policy manual, which includes recommendations to delete provisions that bar personal relationships among employees and to keep the two-year employment contract for full-time personnel.

The draft of the revised policy manual has been sent to all staff and employees for input and comments before the Board of Regents takes action at its next meeting.

An assembly scheduled yesterday at 3pm to seek the college community's feedback on the proposed changes was postponed to a later date.

Based on the draft policy, all full-time employees of the col-

lege other than limited-term appointees and nonresident personnel occupying permanent positions must enter into an initial two-year contract. All contracts will be regulated by the policies and regulations promulgated by the Board of Regents.

NMC has three types of employee contracts: 10-month faculty for instructional; 12-month faculty (for all other faculty); and 12-month staff contracts (for the remaining employees of the college).

The issue of faculty employment contracts was raised because of the high turnover rate at the college due to provisions that allow the nonrenewal of contracts with or without cause. Faculty members earlier proposed indefinite employment contracts to ensure job security.

Meanwhile, NMC proposes to

entirely delete its rule on non-fraternization policy. This provision bars personal relationships between employees, or relationships with students. This relationship is defined as a past or continuing relationship between individuals of a romantic or intimate nature.

This early, some employees are opposing the deletion of this provision.

"I am curious as to the discussion and the reasons that were set forth which resulted in a suggestion to remove the entire policy. On the surface, this policy as it is written protects the college from liability in case relationship develops between two people for which a power imbalance exists that might suggest that the relationship had been initiated, maintained, and motivated by favors or fear," a faculty member said yesterday.



ISLAND VISITORS

CHRISTINA DOUGLAS/9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND

The 9th Mission Support Command's top leaders meet with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, second from left, at the Governor's Office yesterday to further strengthen the relationship between the local government and the U.S. Army Reserve. From left, Edward Manibusan, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; Inos; Brig. Gen. Michele G. Compton, the 9th MSC Commanding General; and Command Sgt. Maj. Forrest Wacker, the CSM of the 9th MSC. Compton, who is based out of Hawaii, is visiting the island to meet with her soldiers and tour local Army Reserve facilities.

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Bankruptcy cases almost doubled this year

A total of 15 bankruptcy petitions were filed with the federal court this year, almost double the number of such cases filed last year.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's special assistant for political affairs Dolores Mendiola Aldan filed the 15th bankruptcy petition, while couple Richard B. Seman and Lorraine M. Seman filed the 14th bankruptcy case.

Aldan's petition is Chapter 7, while the Seman couple's case is Chapter 13. Both cases were

filed on Monday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Under Bankruptcy Chapter 7, most assets of the debtor are liquidated as quickly as possible to pay off his or her debts over a period of three to five years.

Under Bankruptcy Chapter 13, also known as reorganization bankruptcy, the petitioners want to pay off their debts over a period of three to five years.

Seven individuals, including former congressman Martin B. Ada, and one corporation filed

Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions last year.

The all-time highest record of bankruptcy cases was in 2005 when 31 cases were recorded.

One of the main reasons why many cases were filed in 2005 was because the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act took effect beginning that year. The law increased the filing fee and made bankruptcy petitions stricter, among other things. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Man's sentencing delayed until case of his cop brother is over

The Superior Court yesterday agreed to withhold the sentencing of a defendant in an assault and battery case until the criminal case of his brother, a police officer, is completed.

At the scheduled sentencing hearing, associate judge Ramona V. Manglona granted assistant attorney general Benjamin Petersburg's recommendation to delay the sentencing of defendant Scott Alvin Camacho Leon

25, 2010. The sentencing was re-set for yesterday.

Scott Alvin Leon Guerrero had assaulted Albert C. Leon Guerrero on Nov. 2, 2008, in the wake of an argument that erupted among family members.



Manglona

According to preliminary investigation conducted by the Department of Public Safety, the argument prompted police officer Nicholas Leon Guerrero Jr. to fire his gun

and assault Scott Alvin Leon Guerrero. At the time, the police officer was off-duty. No one was injured as a result of the gunfire. Police said the officer fired his .223 rifle when his brother slapped him.

The government charged Nicholas C. Leon Guerrero Jr. with assault with a dangerous weapon in which the alleged victim is Scott Alvin Leon Guerrero.

Nicholas Leon Guerrero Jr.'s jury trial is on March 21, 2011. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Cultural songs, dances to mark Bangladeshi community's 'Victory Day' today

Cultural songs, dances and food await the public as the Bangladesh Cultural Group of the CNMI celebrates today the 39th anniversary of Bangladesh's "Victory Day" at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 6pm to 8pm.

Rakibul "Mintu" Islam, in an interview yesterday, called on members of the general community to join them in the observance of Victory Day.

"It doesn't matter whether you're Bangladeshi or not. Everyone is welcome. We have cultural songs and dances, and

food for everyone," he said.

Islam, who has been working in the CNMI for years, said Bangladeshis on Saipan celebrated Victory Day for the first time in 1994, and it has become an annual event for them and their friends.

On Dec. 16, 1971, 93,000 officers

and men of the Pakistani Army surrendered to the Indo-Bangladeshi High Command in Dhaka, ending the nine-

month-long Bangladesh Liberation War and the 1971 Bangladesh atrocities. Bangladesh gained independence after months of a long and bloody struggle. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

Hillblom's son sues another former lawyer

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

One of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom of DHL fame filed yesterday a separate malpractice suit against another former lawyer for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorneys' contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings.

Junior Larry Hillbroom, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, sued Santa Barbara, Calif.-based attorney Barry J. Israel for legal malpractice, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and racketeering activity.

Hillbroom also sued Keith A. Waibel, who served as trustee of the JLH Trust (Junior Larry Hillbroom), for negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and racketeering activity.

The plaintiff included 10 unnamed co-defendants in the suit.

Hillbroom wants the defendants to pay him damages, restitution, attorneys' fees, and court costs.

He also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to forfeit all fees paid to

his former lawyers.

Hillbroom originally filed the lawsuit against Israel and attorney David J. Lujan in the Central District of California.

On March 24, 2010, the Central District of California dismissed the case against Lujan due to lack of jurisdiction.

On Nov. 29, 2010, the same court dismissed the case against Israel, citing the same reason.

Hillbroom subsequently filed the lawsuit against Lujan in the U.S. District Court for the NMI in April 2010.

In Hillbroom's lawsuit against Israel and Waibel, Hanson alleged that Israel, Lujan, and other conspirators were not happy with the contingency fee capped by the Hillblom probate court so they took steps to increase the attorney's contingency fee from 38 percent to 56 percent without informing Hillbroom.

"As counsel for plaintiff, Israel owed plaintiff a fiduciary duty, a duty not to make an arrangement for, charge or collect an unreasonable fee or an unreasonable amount for expenses and a duty to communicate to plaintiff in

writing the scope of the representation and the basis or rate of the fee and expenses for which the plaintiff would be responsible," Hanson said.

As trustee of the JLH Trust, Hanson said, Waibel failed in his duties as trustee, including allowing the attorneys to increase their contingency fee from 38 percent to 56 percent and paying the attorneys unsubstantiated costs from the JLH Trust.

He said it was only on Nov. 10, 2006, when Hillbroom learned from an FBI agent that the conspirators stole money from his share of the Hillblom estate.

Hanson said that Hillbroom then discovered that his ultimate recovery from his approximately \$90 million settlement of the Hillblom probate case was only about \$12 million.

The approved heirship settlement provided that the Hillblom estate would distribute 60 percent of its assets equally to the four qualified heirs, entitling Hillbroom to 15 percent of Hillblom's \$550 million estate.

Hillblom died in a plane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. Since the Hillblom probate opened in 1995, eight children have filed heirship and paternity claims against the estate.

GOPS

From Page 1

ferent issue.

He also said there seemed to be a rush in making a decision to approve the merger.

Deleon Guerrero was among the incumbent Republican members of the House and Senate that held a meeting yesterday afternoon to solidify their opposition to the proposed merger, which he said he does not personally support.

They want the Republican leadership to seek the input of the general membership before making a decision on a merger proposal.

Deleon Guerrero said there is a benefit to being in a political party "but you also have to earn the right; you have to show loyalty to the party, you have to support it, and if you want to be in any position, eventually, that time may come but a merger almost goes against that."

"It almost allows for officers from

outside the party to come in and I think it is an insult for us to accept the merger when we have supporters that have been loyally supporting not only our candidates but the party for four years. It's a slap in the face to them," Deleon Guerrero told reporters.

The Republican lawmakers said the governor seems to unilaterally seek the two parties' merger.

Fitial was a member of the CNMI Republican Party until he formed his own Covenant Party in 2001 for his gubernatorial bid. While he lost that time, he won in his second attempt in 2005. He is no longer eligible to seek a third term.

Last week, he told reporters that a merger of the Covenant and Republican parties is now being worked on but declined to state a reason other than say "there's strength in unity."

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) echoed Deleon Guerrero's statement that the Republican Party welcomes those who want to join the political party.

He reiterated yesterday that the

merger is not beneficial to the Republican Party, considering that not only Republicans but also Covenant Party members and others have been frustrated with the governor, as well as with payless paydays and work hour cuts.

Deleon Guerrero and Benavente want to meet with Republican officers "as soon as possible" to register their opposition to the merger they said is proposed by the governor and others, but not the whole Covenant Party or the whole Republican Party.

"No one person in the Republican Party can say that. We need to go back and get the consensus of the party to do anything like that," Deleon Guerrero said.

He added that no one really knows why the governor wants to merge the party he left and the party he formed. He said it could be that when he attends the National Governors Association meetings in the States, there are only two parties recognized and he does not fit in either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Branch took effect on Oct. 24, pursuant to Public Law 17-21, the budget law for fiscal year 2011.

Besides the 16-hour cuts, employees are also subjected to 13 unpaid holidays to help cap government spending at \$132 million.

Inos said the budget law gave flexibility to agencies on how to cut their spending to live within their allotments, but there's almost nothing to cut in the non-personnel budget.

The acting governor said if the reduction in payroll is still not enough after the review of the exemptions, "then we may have to face the ultimate thing"—letting go or terminating government personnel. But he reiterated that this is a last resort and won't happen during the holidays.

FITIAL

From Page 1

IX Federal Regional Council held in San Francisco late last month.

"For the very first time, our island nations were afforded an opportunity to put a face to the many names we have only heard of or seen on communications related to funding, policy, and technical assistance. For the members of the FRC, the feeling was very much the same," said Fitial.

In concluding his remarks, Fitial pointed out that the region's leaders all share the goal of achieving of economic prosperity for all the islands. "We share two common goals: recovery and prosperity. Our recovery is a process that will be heavily dependent on our cohesive ability to improve our infrastructure."

Following a lunch break, the chief executives were to receive PowerPoint presentations from the MCES committees such as the Pacific Workforce Investment Workgroup, Micronesian Challenge, Regional Invasive Species Council, Regional Energy, Health, Transportation, Regional Tourism, and the Pacific Islands Regional Recycling Initiative Committee.

Other committees that will be presenting their status reports over the next two days are the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future, Communications, Water and Sanitation. A

OPA

From Page 1

ernor and lieutenant governor with a copy to the attorney general."

"In accordance with CNMI statutes, OPA cannot comment on this report," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim separately confirmed the governor and lieutenant governor's receipt of a report "but it's marked confidential pursuant to 1CMC7849" and as such, the report's content cannot be shared at this time.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is currently in Palau for the Dec. 15 to 17 Micronesian Chief Executives Summit so he has yet to review the OPA report.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos is currently reviewing the report, Kim said.

Kim, who is the lieutenant governor's legal counsel, said Buckingham is on "vacation until January."

OPA investigated complaints lodged against Buckingham and the OAG for hosting a campaign gathering for Camacho, the Covenant Party's delegate candidate, on Aug. 28 at the governor's

presentation will also be made on the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Fitial bats for continued fuel tax exemption

Following the committee reports, the chief executives are expected to submit resolutions on the floor to be considered for adoption.

This early in the summit, Fitial has already proposed and distributed a draft resolution to the members regarding the Liquid Fuel Tax measure—Bill 429-30—pending in the Guam Legislature. Under this legislation, Guam would remove the current tax exemption on fuel that is transshipped to other islands throughout Micronesia.

"My concern regarding Bill 429-30 is its impact on fuel prices to the neighboring island communities. The neighboring islands rely on Guam to serve as a regional center for transshipment activity," said Fitial.

The governor also noted that any additional costs that are imposed on the use of Guam as a regional center will directly increase the costs of goods in the secondary markets such as the CNMI; the Republic of Palau; the Federated States of Micronesia; and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"Any price increase would significantly harm the competitiveness of the use of Guam as our regional transshipment center," he added. **(PR)**

private residence in Gualo Rai.

The public auditor, in a letter back in September, urged Buckingham to "cease any campaign activities in the name of your office."

Camacho finished second in the four-way delegate race won by incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan who ran as an independent.

Sablan, delegate candidate Jesse Borja of the Democratic Party and other concerned citizens asked OPA to investigate the attorney general and the OAG for their involvement in campaign activities.

The complaints alleged criminal violations of the CNMI Election Reform Act of 2000, and the Commonwealth Ethics Code Act of 1992.

"Specifically, each complaint alleges that a party hosted by you and the OAG on behalf of Joseph N. Camacho, a candidate for delegate to the United States House of Representatives, violated both the Election and Ethics Acts," the public auditor told Buckingham at the time.

Buckingham recused himself from all involvement and oversight of the November 2010 election.



'WE GOT IT'

Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin, a soldier with the 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Basra, Iraq, poses with a care package filled with home goodies he got on Dec. 13 as part of the CNMI Home Front Support. More than 200 holiday care packages were sent to the sons and daughters of the CNMI who are currently serving in the US Armed Forces.

SPC. EVE ILILAU

PAY CUT

From Page 1

"We are going to take another look at the exempt folks and make some adjustments in there. We would like to maintain or pursue the policy that the people who are exempted are exempted only for the purpose of them being able to be paid during those austerity days when they work, and not a wholesale exemption. Meaning, that they won't get paid 80 days just because they're exempted," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos, who oversees government finances, also said there have been minimal savings from the 16-hour pay cut because of the long list of employees who are on the exemption list.

The 16-hour pay cuts per pay period and unpaid holidays are expected to reduce government spending by some \$21 million to \$22 million. But because almost half of government employees are exempted, the actual savings is only about \$11 million.

Moreover, most of those exempted such as doctors are among the highest paid government personnel while most of those who are receiving pay cuts have the lowest salaries.

Inos said the savings from the pay cuts have been "very minimal."

The Department of Public Health, for example—one of the biggest government agencies—exempts most of its personnel, except the administrative staff.

The work hour cuts in the Executive

Saipan school serenades man'amko with Christmas carols

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Yuletide carols rang from the rafters of the Aging Center yesterday morning, with students from Saipan Community School serenading the *man'amko* with their ukuleles.

A total of 68 students from sixth to eighth grades visited the senior citizens to regale them with a selection of Christmas carols.

Accompanied by some of their teachers, the students showcased their talent in playing the small four-stringed, two-octave instrument.

Debbie Winkfield, the General Music teacher at Saipan Community School, served as the students' conductor.

During the program, several students invited the *man'amko* to jam with them by letting them strum the ukulele while they play the chords.

Holiday concert at SSHS on Sunday

Saipan Pacific Winds will hold a holiday concert this Sunday, Dec. 19, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, at the Saipan Southern High School.

The Saipan Pacific Winds, under the direction of Christina A. Nierras and Will DeWitt, will perform with their friends from the Saipan Southern High School Manta Band and special guests from the Koblerville Elementary School Glee Club. DeWitt is the musical director of the SSHS Manta Band.

According to DeWitt, the concert will feature almost everyone's holiday favorites, including the Mannheim Steamroller's arrangement of *Auld Lang Syne* (Chip Davis); *O Come All Ye Faithful* (wind ensemble with antiphonal brass and children's choir); *In the Christmas Mood* (a medley of

Justin Kim, 11, said this was the second time that he performed for the *man'amko* at the Aging Center.

"I'm happy that I did it and would love to do it again," said Kim.

Sixth grader Geesyu Hahn said he still felt nervous, although he has already taken part in the same activity twice.

"Playing for them made me feel proud. I think it was a great Christmas gift for them," said Hahn.

Winkfield said students from the Saipan Community School have been coming to the Aging Center annually to perform for the *man'amko* during the holidays.

"It's our way of teaching the kids to give back [to the community]," Winkfield told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Winkfield, the students started practicing for the

carols, a la Glenn Miller); and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* (traditional).

The music group holds the concert every year. Seats are limited and guests are encouraged to come early. Tickets are \$5 for general admission and can be purchased at the door, or in advance from a band member. Student price is just \$3, and children under 7 are free.

"Come celebrate the holidays with over a hundred homegrown musicians from around the CNMI," said DeWitt.

The Saipan Pacific Wind, the CNMI's sole community concert band, has about 30 members and has been looking for new recruits every year. The band performs during civic, patriotic, and holiday events throughout the year. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

December caroling as early as the beginning of the school year.

Winkfield said they use music to give back to the community because this form of art helps people of all ages bond with one another and bring them joy.

"It's a warm-hearted feeling when you see them [*man'amko*] respond to the children," she added.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students of Saipan Community School assist several congregates of the Aging Center in strumming the ukulele during their Christmas performance yesterday morning. A total of 68 students took part in the school's annual activity to provide entertainment for the *man'amko* during the holiday season.



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IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT STATE OF HAWAII FC-A NO. 09-1-0071

In the Matter of the Adoption of
A FEMALE CHILD, Born on
May 10, 2007 by
BRENT HARUKI SHIMOKAWA and
ROXANNE SHIZUE MORI SHIMOKAWA
Husband and Wife, Petitioners.

THE STATE OF HAWAII TO:

Guo An Zhan aka Zhan Guo An, whose last known address is unknown.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition for adoption of the above -identified child born to Mei Yue Piao aka Piao Mei Yue, the child's mother, has been filed in the Family Court, First Circuit State of Hawaii.

THE PETITION ALLEGES that your consent to the adoption of the above-named child by the petitioners above-named is not required and may be dispensed with pursuant to Hawaii's Revised Statutes Section 578-2(c) as amended.

A hearing on the petition will be held on Tuesday, JAN. 25, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Family Court located at 4675 Kapolei Parkway, 3rd Floor, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

IF YOU FAIL to appear at the hearing on the date and time and at the place noted above or if you fail to file a written response to the allegations reflected in the Petition for Adoption, further action may be taken including the granting of the adoption with further notice to you. Your written response should be addressed to the Presiding Judge, Family Court, First Circuit, 4675 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

FAILURE TO OBEY this notice may result in an entry of a default and default judgment against you.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the child, the adoptive parents and the natural parents have rights under H.R.S. Section 578-15 regarding confidentiality of adoption records after the child reaches age 18.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, NOV. 23, 2010

/s/ S. IHA
Clerk of the above-entitled Court

Laurie A. Loomis #3716
1001 Bishop Street, #2380
Honolulu HI 96813

NMHC laments lack of takers for Rota housing project

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. wants to improve the occupancy rate for its Rota Liyo'

Housing Subdivision project.

Field representative Mark Manglona said that only 11 of the 30 housing units located in Song-song Village are currently occupied. This translates to 60 percent

of the total number of units.

"Our goal is to try to increase the occupancy," he said.

According to Manglona, the occupancy rate for the housing units has been on a steady de-

cline for three years now.

Manglona said the office has tried to increase people's interest in the housing units by posting vacancy announcements in conspicuous places

and through television.

Corporate director Joshua Sasamoto affirmed the field office's efforts to house tenants in the units. "We worked real hard to get people there but it continues to be a challenge," he said.

Housing board chair Marcie Tomokane asked the agency to conduct a study to find out if there would be any individuals interested to purchase the housing units should they decide to

sell some of the properties.

Tomokane also asked Sasamoto to review their existing contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on the housing project and find out if they can get rid of some of the units that remain unoccupied.

The board chair argued that maintenance of these units incurs additional expenses for the agency.

'Involve college community in search for new president'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the top candidates in the last search for a Northern Marianas College president is urging the Board of Regents to include the college community in the new search for the next president so that the integrity of the selection is maintained.

NMC instructor Rik Villegas also urged the board to abide by its promise of making the

search transparent by publicly announcing the candidates, inviting the students, staff, faculty, and community to meet with the finalists, have them ask questions, and even have some say in the process.

In a mass email to all college staff and employees yesterday, Villegas said he is pleased to learn that the board will continue the search process "with integrity,

transparency, and efficiency."

"Transparency is essential for the search to be conducted in fairness and to keep all the stakeholders of the college informed,

and hopefully involved in the process. ...The selection of a

new president is for the benefit of our students, staff, faculty, and the community," he added.

"A lack of integrity and

transparency will only engender an aura of politics at work and would negatively affect the credibility of the board, college, and new president," he added.

He admitted that the recent decision by the board to re-announce the position disappointed him but he expressed gratitude to all the individuals who supported and helped him in his application.

Villegas said he plans to reapply for the position. The board earlier stated that NMC will have a new president by the end of January.

RELATES STORY

Integrity, transparency, and efficiency. **PAGE 11**

Trial of suspect in 2007 armed poker robbery set March 2011

The Superior Court has scheduled the jury trial of one of four suspects in the armed robbery of a poker arcade in 2007 on March 14, 2011.

Associate Judge David Wiseman set the jury trial date of Fernando Quitano after a teleconference with the prosecution and the defendant's lawyer, Stephen Woodruff, on Tuesday.

A change of plea hearing was set on July 26, 2010. Wiseman, however, did not accept the plea agreement and offered Quitano the opportunity to withdraw his plea of guilty.

On March 27, 2007, a secu-

rity guard was injured when three men staged an armed robbery at Smile Poker in Chalan Kanoa. Police later arrested Quitano, Christopher Lee Muña, Joseph San Nicolas, and Martin P. Cepeda.

Muna and San Nicolas have already pleaded guilty and were subsequently sentenced.

It was not clear whether Cepeda's case was already resolved. He was charged with being an accessory to the crime as he allegedly provided the getaway car.

Then defense attorney Perry B. Inos used to serve as counsel for Cepeda. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DPW-002**

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, January 17, 2010 • TIME: 10:30am

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COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED IN OFFICE #315 ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA BETWEEN 8AM AND 5PM.


THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA) PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF DPW

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-028**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 29, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT ENERGY STAR
RATED COMPACT FLOURESCENT LAMPS (CFLs) FOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009 THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.


THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DEQ-029 (A-D)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 29, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

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(5) LAPTOP COMPUTERS, FIVE (5) PRINTERS AND
THREE (3) PROJECTORS FOR THE DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAUIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSIONS FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extensions of leases on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These lease extensions are subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises are described as public land Lot Nos. 057 E 09, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, and 057 E 10, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, both situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is South Pacific Lumber Company, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are James C. Whang and Charles C. Whang.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is James C. Whang. The Vice President is Charles C. Whang.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. James C. Whang.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating warehouses, office spaces and show rooms.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 24, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO’ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku guini ha ná’i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na táno’ pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapreban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamánda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha háyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerát siña ha na’hålom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon táno’ pupbliku. Sigi más mo’ na mapribeniya ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen infotmasion ni madimánda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugát atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano’ pupbliku Lot Nos. 057 E 09, kinonsiste árian kási guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus más, yan 057 E10, kinonsiste ária kási guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus más, parehu gaige gi Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugát gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha ni para i rikonosimientio.
- ii. I manatikikila i Kompanian i South Pacific Lumber, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot i Corporation siha si James C. Whang yan si Charles C. Whang.

I Presidente/sekritário/Tresureron i Corporation si James C. Whang. I Segundo na Presidente si Charles C. Whang.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot James C. Whang.
- iv. I manatikikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugát siha uniku para i rason i maneran warehouses, kâmpo ofisina siha yan show rooms.

I teman i kontrátan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 años.

I mapropone na atkilon sâkkan duránten i tema sigun i percentage gi bâlen i fair market value gi propiadát siha.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontráta siha siña machule’ gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha, gaige i segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha táya’ ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon táno’ pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritáron i Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha debi na u akseptá i tinige’ i infotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ántes di Disembre 24, 2010 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammatáf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Kkapasal akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge ebwe alughulugh mereel Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature sangi Article XI, Talil 5(c) mellól Allegh Lapalap Commonwealth Teel faluw kka faluwasch Efang Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghíir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoorá, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 057 E 09, eyoor eluww sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3, 245 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, me 057 E 10, eyoor eluww sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3,245 square meters) elap me ngare eghus, elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fishihy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge South Pacific Lumber Company, CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge James C. Whang me Charles C. Whang..

Samwoolul/Treasurer/Sekretorial corporation nge James C. Whang. Aruscheyil samwool nge Charles Whang.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. James C. Whang..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel ammwelil warehouse (sokko), office spaces (leliyal bwulasiyo) me leliyal akkate (show rooms)..

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellól bwuley yeel.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songson, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tehúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal December 24, 2010 (Tumwur) mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tehúlúyól.

NMC has a new CNMI Archivist

The Northern Marianas College has appointed John Cook as the new CNMI Archivist. He will manage and organize the vast information within the CNMI Archives, ensuring that its information and services are readily available to the community.

The CNMI Archives collects, preserves, and organizes the permanent records of the CNMI government. Archived records include legislative bills, executive orders, property deeds, election results, historical reports, and other information of legal, historical, political, or administrative importance.

“We are pleased to have John on board at NMC,” said acting NMC interim president Barbara Merfalen. “His experience in the field of law and information analysis will be



Cook

beneficial to the organization of important historical documents at the archives.”

Before starting out at NMC, Cook served as a law clerk for Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro of the CNMI Supreme Court. Prior to working for Castro, Cook also served as a law clerk in the Rhode Island trial court system, where he performed legal research and analysis and drafted judicial opinions.

Cook has also interned at several government offices, including the Office of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter of Michigan and for Judge Eugene R. Sullivan of U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

“I’m thrilled to be serving as the new CNMI Archivist,” said Cook. “I’m very excited to be a part of the Northern Marianas College team and to be working with such a fine group of people at this great institution of higher learning.”

Cook received his bachelor’s degree from Yale University, his master’s degree from Oxford University, and his law degree from Duke University School of Law. He is a member of the state bars of New York and Connecticut and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. (NMC)

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

Dec. 16, 1998

Wedding campaign gets funding

The Marianas Visitors Authority board has approved some \$80,000 budget to carry out a campaign that will promote the Northern Marianas as a wedding destination next year. Of this, \$40,000 has been set aside for operations and the other \$40,000 has been allotted for advertising. Next year, the MVA is targeting some 2,600 Japanese couples to come here, in a move to widen its market base in Japan. Although the number of Japanese holding their weddings on the island has considerably increased for the past five years, the CNMI has lagged behind neighboring Guam with an 8.5 percent market share. Considering the potential of the CNMI as a wedding destination, Motoyo Castro, marketing specialist of MVA, said the office must work with the entire tourism industry to implement a wedding campaign.

Tinian’s \$150M bond issue on hold

Tinian’s proposed \$150 million bond is put on hold indefinitely following the government’s request to rethink its priority of projects amid the deepening economic crisis, according to Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chairman Juan S. Tenorio. The feasibility study of Tinian’s economic profile and CNMI’s limited capacity to float bonds were also considered, Tenorio said. “Tinian’s proposed \$150 million bond is still on hold. One, the feasibility study has only been drafted. It’s not finished yet...not final. Two, they were asked to reprioritize their projects. And three, the issue on the proposed terminal and runway,” the CDA chief told Saipan Tribune.

Dec. 16, 1999

CUC’s plan to scale back 80MW project questioned

Denying accusations that lobbyists were behind efforts to press the initial plan on the controversial Saipan power project, Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes has questioned moves by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to scale it back when it had insisted it was needed just a few months ago. He also said that he agreed with the decision by the government corporation to re-assess the entire project before pursuing its next step, but added that this should have been undertaken earlier when the independent evaluation was ongoing. Mr. Reyes has been in favor of holding oversight hearings on the project that has come under a storm of protests due to the initial review by CUC on all proposals submitted by 13 firms.

Bill eyes cap on recruitment fees

Due to the skyrocketing fees charged by local recruiters to foreign workers for jobs in the CNMI, lawmakers are seeking to cap the fee to an amount equivalent to a one month salary in a bid to stop the practice of milking hapless nonresidents who want to get employed on the island. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Karl T. Reyes, will also seek stiffer penalties against violators with a fine of not more than \$50,000 and/or imprisonment of up to three years. According to its proponent, House Bill 11-503 is part of the efforts of the Department of Labor and Immigration to reform local labor policies and curb abuses against nonresident workers on the island.

Dec. 16, 2002

Corps of Engineers responds to disaster

Nearly 100 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers soldiers and civilians are helping the Commonwealth and Guam recover from the devastation caused by supertyphoon Pongsona. The Corps’ Fort Shafter emergency operations center were already staffed and running before the typhoon hit on Dec. 8 and the first four Corps disaster recovery specialists were deployed to Guam on the same day. The Federal Emergency Management Agency leads the federal recovery effort. FEMA has tasked the Corps with nine missions due to its extensive emergency response capabilities.

PSS eyes model school for NMI’s gifted children

The Public School System aims to develop a new school that caters only to talented and gifted children. Board of Education chairman Herman T. Guerrero said Friday that the issue has been discussed by the board and other key PSS to be able to meet the needs of that particular group of students in the CNMI. Failure to adequately address the need of the “genius type” students would cause some of them to wander rather than focus on regular classroom lessons. “They get bored if they’re not challenged in regular classrooms,” said Guerrero. He said the discussion on the creation of the school is still in the exploratory stage.

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| ✓ Gold Watch Cases up to \$750 | ✓ Gold Chains up to \$1,000 | ✓ Gold Nugget Rings up to \$800 | ✓ Gold Broken Rings up to \$500 |
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| ✓ Gold Wedding Bands up to \$350 | ✓ Dental Gold up to \$900 | ✓ Gold Link Bracelets up to \$2,500 | ✓ Gold Coins up to \$15,000 |
| ✓ Gold Bangles up to \$850 | ✓ Gold Scrap up to \$1,250 | ✓ Gold Broken Chains up to \$1,000 | ✓ Gold Bars up to \$15,000 |
| ✓ Gold Pendants up to \$300 | ✓ Gold Nugget Bracelets .. up to \$2,500 | | |

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\$2.50 U.S. Gold	\$125 to \$5,500
\$3.00 U.S. Gold	\$250 to \$5,750
\$5.00 U.S. Gold	\$250 to \$7,500
\$10.00 U.S. Gold	\$500 to \$11,500
\$20.00 U.S. Gold	\$1,000 to \$15,000

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Guantanamo must go

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There are plenty of things the Senate should do before the end of the current lame-duck session, but there is also one thing it shouldn't do: go along with the House in complicating President Obama's plan to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay.

Last week the House passed a spending bill that would prohibit self-proclaimed 9/11 architect Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and other suspected terrorists from being brought to the United States. The proposed ban is only the latest example of Congress' insistence on divorcing itself from anything that might be portrayed as softness on terrorism.

The opposition to closing Guantanamo—and to holding civilian trials for terrorism suspects—gained traction last month after a jury acquitted a Tanzanian terrorist of all but one of 285 counts. Rather than welcome the fact that a jury sifted through the evidence and still convicted Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani of a serious charge, critics railed against civilian trials and argued that suspected terrorists should be tried, if at all, by military commissions—at Guantanamo.

To his credit, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. denounced the House legislation, urging the Senate to reject what he called “an extreme and risky encroachment on the authority of the executive branch to determine when and where to prosecute terrorist subjects.” The question is whether President Obama will be as strenuous in opposing the provision. Although the White House insists that the president is still committed to closing Guantanamo, he hasn't made it a priority. And the administration has sent mixed signals about whether, as Holder promised, Mohammed will receive a civilian trial. This latest attempt to tie the president's hands demands a more muscular response.

The Senate also faces a decision on two initiatives that have languished:

Senate Republicans blocked a vote on a military authorization bill to which a repeal of “don't ask, don't tell” was attached. But proponents of allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military are now supporting a separate repeal bill. A Pentagon study has made clear that the policy can be ended without undermining military discipline. That fact, and simple justice, demand an affirmative vote.

Finally, the Senate should pass the DREAM Act, which would provide a path to legalization for children of illegal immigrants who were brought to this country when they were young. Historically, the legislation has enjoyed strong bipartisan support, and a recent Gallup poll shows 54 percent of Americans back it. Its passage in the House, assisted by a few brave Republicans, has given proponents hope that similarly courageous votes will be found in the Senate. We hope so too.



The Eagle has landed

Dani Aguila, a Filipino humorist, drew a cartoon of an eagle with seven lives once. He did it in his sixties and essentially, for himself. The first decade was ONE-derful. The eagle barely survived a flood. Next was life being truly TWO-rific, with planes in the sky so this would be WWII; then life is so THREE-ling! *Arigato*. That's a ball of ramen. I think, he meant these as images per decade. “I am so FOUR-tunate” followed, showing Manila's road traffic and being easily squeezed between two vehicles. “Gimme FIVE, I'm still alive,” would have been Marcos' martial law days when he skipped town since he was sought after for questioning. At age 60 and SIX, “my eyes played tricks,” was being in winter U.S., perhaps, hitting black ice on the highway. Lucky SEVEN, as in heaven?! Gulp. “Thank you Lord for creating me a clean and repaired heart; please renew a right spirit within me. Amen,” he prayed, finding himself still on earth.

He might have thought that a heart surgery was a harbinger of imminent demise. Life trumped him one. He was 84 a couple of months ago when he finally decided to hang his hat in the Obit section and consigned his artwork and humor into the annals of human history.

The eagle is, of course, the Philippines' national bird, perhaps, patterned after the American bald eagle of pride and prowess. We tend to be partial to the sparrow as an identification tweet, though Pea Eye media used it to identify the folks with no permanent address. Ideological sympathies, if not admitted admiration for their youthful passion, kept us vulnerable to charges of being a fellow red traveler.

A training center I once ran in Mactan Island, Cebu, Philippines was once raided by a platoon of Philippine Constabulary before Ferdinand Marcos radioed 10-4, unhesitant to point their M-16 at us on suspicion of harboring subversives. An old deep freezer in the kitchen had all the uniformed personnel pointing their guns at it before opening it as a possible hiding place to conceal anyone not wanting to be found! There was a power outage that afternoon so when the unit was opened, the stench of defrosted fish prevailed!

My not infrequent comments about the military-industrial complex, source and target of General and President Ike's critique, and perceived sympathies with commies as a result of one of my *Dong Bei* trek reports on the Korean Peninsula have been found fishy by nasty feedbacks. I took the cudgels for *Chosun Koryo* after the Yeonpyeong incident, indicating my preference for China's suggestion to convene the six-nation roundtable over the saber rattling of the five-sided building by the Potomac, eager to fly the eagles on the George Washington nuclear naval carrier over Bohai and Beihai to see if we can effect a regime change in the Hermit Kingdom. *Gyeongbokgung* of *Hangul* (S. Korea) is only too willing to unify the land of Jeoson, but it is also warily clear it would trigger a massive refugee flow into Manchuria, upsetting the delicate balance

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



of the overheated *Zhongguo* economy, which would cause snickers among Pentagon handlers but detrimental to the Hangul Won's heavy investments.

Another *aguila* (eagle) of my persuasion is Richard Holbrooke, former editor of *Foreign Affairs* and Obama's diplomatic front man to Afghanistan, who succumbed to a burst aorta this week, permanently terminating his stint with the Foreign Service. We knew of him from our disdain of his being an apologist of the Vietnam War, and admiration for his stint with the U.S. Peace Corps, his service in the East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the State Department, and, of course, his availability to all U.S. Presidents since Jimmy Carter. A likeable Kissinger, though way off left of Henry.

Eagles landing as a metaphor for the termination of a completed journey was initiated in the lunar landing missions of the '70s, but being of the dramaturgic rather than Spartan tradition, we tend to be partial to the song of the sparrow. We notice Kagman teacher and medical survivor David Bucher play Drosselmeyer in the Glushko Academy of Performing Arts ballet rendition of *The Nutcracker* first before we hear Lang's lament that an Okinawan politician misled him over Japan's footing the bill for the relocation of grunts to Tinian. A matter of perspective of what one considers important.

Holbrooke impressed us earlier with his adherence to dialogue as a diplomatic tool, making sure that one is clear of one's monologue before engaging the position of others, and also expanding into meaningful polylogues in the spirit of civilogue! That is a lot of “logues” but in the new age of blogs where civility is one of the first casualties of open discourse, when conflict and contentiousness continue to guide parliamentary and legislative procedures, and commercially required of editorial styles, we know that Holbrooke left a vacuum in the consummate practice of the traditions of *detente*, *glasnost*, and *aggiornamento*.

We are often anxious about the longevity of our existence. I activated my cell phone upon my return from China, and I noticed we pay for airtime rather than volume of transmittals, which the phone techie informed me is now the universal format save in the U.S., something like the more advanced Beta tape format losing to the U.S. standard; technologically, our system is behind.

Let eagles soar for the quality of existence; this sparrow sings for the same.

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Integrity, transparency, and efficiency

By **RIK VILLEGAS**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He may be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you may comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



“Trust, honesty, humility, transparency and accountability are the building blocks of a positive reputation. Trust is the foundation of any relationship.”—Mike Paul

The recent decision by the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents to re-announce the position of the president was disappointing to me and many others. I would like to express my gratitude to all the individuals who

expressed their support and assisted me in my application to become the next president of the college. The selection process took six months from the first announcement in June until the decision to begin the process again. The Presidential Search Committee, led by Lt. Col. Edward Camacho, was thorough as they narrowed down 12 candidates to the top four that were interviewed. From the four, I was one of two selected as the finalists.

I was first informed that the interview with the Board would be on November 3rd, but less than a week before that date, I was told that the interview was rescheduled a month later to accommodate the other finalist. All of this was done without public disclosure. I learned that the finalists were not going to be announced to the public, and after the new president was chosen, he or she would then be introduced to the college and community. I was given no other information except for the date of the interview, and I did not even know the name of the other finalist until the name of Dr. Betsy Boze was revealed by Moneth Deposa, a reporter for the *Saipan Tribune*. Within 10 minutes after reading the article online, I knew that

omy is really bad right now, where would you rather be in times of hardship...here at home or thousands of miles away in a new environment you're not used to? If you can afford to easily move your family back home to Saipan, then by all means, go to the States and find out what it's like to live there. If you like it and it works out, then it'll definitely be a great experience.

I don't regret the seven years I spent in the States. I lived in four different cities, in three different states, in three different regions and traveled to over 30 cities across the country. I've spoken to many different people and, trust me, things are not as they used to be. Truthfully, the only thing that brought me back home was a decent job opportunity, but I only made the move because I knew that one day, I'd be out of a job in the States. Just weeks after I ended a great career with Continental Airline's corporate office, they announced a merger with United Airlines. I hope and pray that I'm wrong, but I have a feeling that some of our fellow islanders from all over Micronesia (I estimate over one thousand) who work for Continental Airlines all across the mainland will lose their job due to this merger.

Again, I am not discouraging anyone from moving to the mainland, but I am merely asking you to do your research carefully and weigh your options. Before you uproot your family and spend thousands of dollars to move your family far away, make sure you are well prepared. As for those of you in the States, I strongly suggest that you start making your way back home. Local revenue generated from tax collection will continue to decline as more people move away and the longer they stay away. These islands are suffering, but with the love and support from its people, we will once again rise to economic prosperity. A revolution of new and talented individuals are desperately needed on Capital Hill. Let's all get together and rid our government of nepotism, arrogance and corruption that has paralyzed our reputation.

I dare to dream that our people will return to these beautiful islands we call home and help bring it back to its glory. *Felis pasguayan anu nuebu!*

Ron Muña
via email

Public apology

To the people of the Commonwealth: Pursuant to the judgment and order in Supreme Court case no. 2008-SLD-0001-JDA, I wish to apologize to you for the statements I made in the Castillo hearing and in *In re Adoption* of N.I.L.S and *In re Petition for Adoption* of C.C.R.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo
CNMI Superior Court

A true leader with vision

There is a man on Saipan who continues to bring in hope for our people amidst all the negativity brought about by Fitial's administration. If only this man were our governor. He has provided job opportunities for many residents who have had no hope in the past. He created a vocational trade school, which allows for students to become carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and chefs. The trade school he created will allow us to be less dependent on foreign workers, which is long overdue.

Now he is creating a new industry for Saipan with the slaughterhouse he is working on. Not only will slaughterhouses reduce our dependence on imports, it will create more local jobs and keep money circulating in our economy. It will allow for fresher foods as well. Tony Pellegrino is a man who brings in hope with his ideas and implementation. If only your governor would do the same.

Ton Aldan
Kagman, Saipan

Dr. Boze had accepted an offer from the College of the Bahamas to become their next president because it was revealed on both the Wiki pages of Dr. Boze and the College of the Bahamas. This created an interesting situation with only three options: 1) Interview and choose me as the new president, 2) Open the interview to the other two individuals who were part of the four interviewed by the PSC, or 3) Re-announce the position either before or after interviewing me.

So here we are, back at square one in the search for a new president. I was pleased to learn from the board's press release that the "search process will continue with integrity, transparency, and efficiency." Transparency is essential for the search to be conducted in fairness and to keep all the stakeholders of the college informed, and hopefully involved in the process. As the press release revealed, the selection of a new president is "for the benefit of our students, staff, faculty, and the community."

I urge the board to involve the college and community in the process by publicly announcing the candidates, inviting the students, staff, faculty, and community to meet with the finalists, ask questions, and even have some say in the process. A lack of integrity and transparency will only engender an aura of politics at work and would negatively affect the credibility of the board, college, and new president.

Will "transparency" be given lip service, or will it be a critical part of the new search process? Will the public be invited to express their opinions and ask questions of the candidates before the person is selected? Can NMC really have a new president by the end of January? It can happen if integrity, transparency, and efficiency are truly part of the search process.

In my original application, I included a strategic agenda that outlined the activities and goals for the first 100 days in office. In the spirit of transparency, I plan to share that agenda so you understand how I would approach the position, and I would also like to see the 100-day agenda of all the future candidates. What is their philosophy? Where do they see the college headed in the future? How will they deal with the challenges the college is facing? And, how will they involve all stakeholders to fully achieve the college's mission?

I have served at the college in numerous capacities for over 13 years, and we are dealing with the most difficult challenges that NMC has ever had to face. It will take someone who is aware of the situation in the Commonwealth and college to step in and make timely decisions to save the institution.

If the goal is to hire someone by the end of January, the only way this could happen so quickly is if the board has someone in mind who is currently working at the college and could immediately step into the position. Is there a possibility that I would seriously be reconsidered for the position? Probably not; however, I plan to reapply to make myself available, and to set the standard for the search to be conducted with integrity, transparency, and efficiency.

My state of the Commonwealth address

My brothers and sisters, at the federal court, Horiguchi building on the first floor hangs on the wall a big plaque that says, "The Bill of Rights." They are numbered 1 to 10. One of those numbers read: Freedom of Speech. As a U.S. citizen and a voter, it is my right to make my own state of the Commonwealth address.

To the people who are suffering and tired of hearing about the same problems over and over again, here are my six issues:

1. Our gas stations are playing a game of Scrabble with their price of gas per gallon.
2. Our stores are playing a game of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" due to the lack of any price controls.
- Now on to the government:
3. Our good governor is no longer playing politics so he has decided to play Monopoly instead.
4. Some of our lawmakers are playing *tong-its* on who is going to get the biggest budget for their precinct. I don't know who will win.
5. Our justice system is playing a game of "Deal or No Deal" with all the repeat offenders.
6. Our CUC, meanwhile, is busy with their own game of Crack the Code.

Where are all those campaign promises that they were to deliver to the people of the Commonwealth? Lord, hear us. Christ, hear us. The situation is not getting any better and we are not moving forward. In my opinion we are moving upwards—straight to the edge of a cliff.

In closing, I will pray harder and wish that our Good Lord above will drop down miraculous solutions and make our Commonwealth a better place to live. God knows that nobody on Capitol Hill can do it.






Ray Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼75

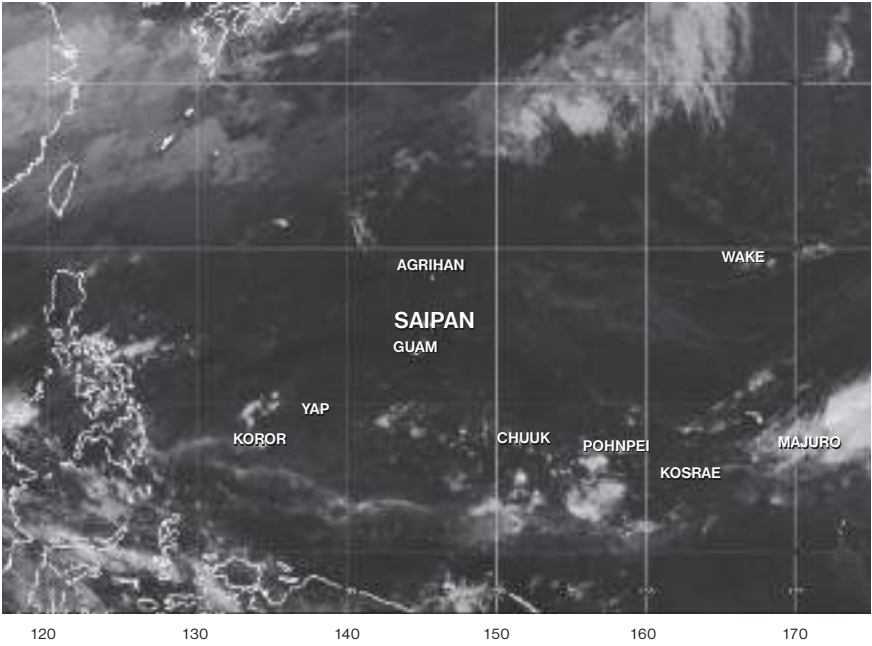
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲69 ▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲37 ▼18
Hong Kong	Showers	▲52 ▼47
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81 ▼68
London	Rain	▲42 ▼25
Los Angeles	Showers	▲60 ▼45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲72 ▼54
Miami	Sunny	▲67 ▼46
New York	Flurries	▲29 ▼23
Osaka	Cloudy	▲47 ▼38
Paris	Rain	▲40 ▼27
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼30
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲44 ▼30
Salem	Showers	▲45 ▼39
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲56 ▼44
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲31 ▼24
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲48 ▼39
Washington, DC	Windy	▲32 ▼23

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
9:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
3:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
10:42 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward into the area from 25N143E to beyond 21N130E. Patchy low-level clouds and showers extend northwest of this boundary. This area includes Iwo To. A weak surface trough curves northeastward from 3N150E to 7N157E. Scattered showers are found south of Chuuk and southwest of Pohnpei between 2N and 6N from 149E to 158E. A cold front from a circulation well north-northeast of Wake Island curves southwestward from beyond 19N180 to 17N177E and continues as a shear line to end near 7N164E. A surface trough near Majuro extends northeastward from 5N168E to 12N177E near the shear line. Showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of Kwajalein and near Majuro within 180 miles of a line from 6N170E to 13N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:39 PM	1:44 AM
Friday	2:19 PM	2:33 AM
Saturday	3:04 PM	3:25 AM
Sunday	3:54 PM	4:20 AM
Monday	4:49 PM	5:17 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
				DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ603/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

High Court reverses part of decision in MRC case

The Supreme Court issued Tuesday a unanimous decision affirming in part and reversing in part the Superior Court's decision in *Marine Revitalization Corporation, et al. v. Department of Land and Natural Resources*.

The Supreme Court held that the Superior Court exceeded its authority when it awarded Marine Revitalization Corp. about \$6 million worth of assignable tax credits, other funds and income streams. It upheld, however, portions of the Superior Court's order that required the government to pay Marine Revitalization any money already appropriated for the payment of judgments, as well as the requirement that DLNR report to the court on a regular basis its efforts to satisfy the judgment.

In 1995, the Legislature enacted the Marine Revitalization Corporation Submerged Lands Lease Act, or Public Law 9-46, which authorized a contract between DLNR and Marine Revitalization

for the construction of Outer Cove Marina. The contract provided that Marine Revitalization would build a marina for the government, and the government would then lease the marina to Marine Revitalization for 15 years, during which time Marine Revitalization would receive fees and profits from its operation. Public Law 9-46 required all commercial boats to use the new marina and that the usage fees collected would belong to Marine Revitalization. Public Law 9-46 provided for binding arbitration in the event of a dispute, and that the decision of the arbitrators would be enforceable in Commonwealth courts.

After the construction of the marina, Marine Revitalization claimed that DLNR breached the contract by failing to require commercial boats to use the marina. The parties submitted the dispute to arbitration. In December 2004, the arbitrators unanimously ruled in favor of Marine Revitalization, find-

ing not only that DLNR failed to require commercial boats to use Outer Cove Marina, but that DLNR also competed with Marine Revitalization by soliciting commercial boaters for its marina at Smiling Cove—in direct contravention of Public Law 9-46. The arbitration panel ultimately awarded Marine Revitalization more than \$5 million.

Both Marine Revitalization and DLNR agreed with the arbitrator's decision and stipulated to the entry of a judgment in the Superior Court. The Superior Court entered judgment of \$5,919,849.99 in favor of Marine Revitalization. Since then, the government has not paid a penny of the judgment.

Marine Revitalization went to the Superior Court on several occasions to try to force the government to honor the judgment. Eventually, the Superior Court issued assignable tax credits to Marine Revitalization, and at this point, DLNR appealed the decision on the grounds that

the Superior Court exceeded its authority in its attempt to force the government to pay the stipulated judgment.

The Supreme Court concluded that a Commonwealth court possesses the authority to adjudicate Marine Revitalization's rights against the Commonwealth government, find the government liable, and enter a binding judgment against the government that will only expire when it receives full payment. The Judiciary cannot, however, direct the appropriation of funds or interfere with the collection of taxes to satisfy that judgment because of the separation of powers doctrine. The doctrine is enshrined in the Covenant and the Commonwealth Constitution, forms the cornerstone of the Commonwealth's government, and guards against governmental tyranny.

In this case, however, the doctrine prevents the Judiciary from taking any further action to satisfy

the judgment. While the Supreme Court was tempted to vindicate its judicial authority by holding otherwise, it refrained from doing so out of respect for the rule of law. The government's inaction in satisfying the judgment is a grave injustice that unfortunately only the political process can remedy. The High Court, nevertheless, reiterated its belief that it trusts that

the Legislature will fulfill its constitutional duties, and appropriate the funds necessary to satisfy Marine Revitalization's judgment.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Marine Revitalization Corporation, et al. v. Department of Land and Natural Resources*, 2010 MP 18, and can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>. (PR)

GUAM NEWS BRIEFS

Camacho in Palau for 14th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit

PALAU—Governor Felix P. Camacho is taking part in the 14th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in Palau. Governor Camacho joins regional leaders from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the state governors from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae.

"From 2003 to today I would have never believed to see the huge strides in progress made by all of our regional leaders," said Governor Camacho. "In the course of the next few days, we will establish permanent sub-regional institutions to ensure that

all of our communities enjoy the prosperities of our hard work in the future."

The Micronesian Chief Executives Summit was founded in 2004 by former-CNMI Governor Juan Babauta and Governor Camacho who called for the establishment of the sub-regional meetings to establish closer ties, enhance existing ties, expand future discussions, and agree on beneficial initiatives for the benefit of the entire western Micronesian region. (PR)

Camacho inks 3.8M Compact Impact grants

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Anthony Ba-

bauta signed a grant for \$3.8 million from the 2011 Compact Impact Funds. These funds are designated to assist Guam Memorial Hospital with medical equipment, the Department of Public Health and Social Services with medical and pharmaceutical supplies, the Department of Corrections with their electronic cell locking system upgrade, and to assist the Department of Youth Affairs in improving their facilities.

"The grant funding awarded to our island will assist some of our government agencies in providing quality services to the people of Guahan," said Camacho. "I acknowledge the help from Mr. Babauta as he has been instrumental in ensuring that these funds are awarded to us."

These projects were approved as the funds are being used for the health, education, social or public safety services, or infrastructure related to such services from the impact from residents from the freely associated states.

"These funds come at a time when some of our island's public services are in dire need of funding to provide critical services to island residents," said Camacho. "I will continue to work closely with federal officials to ensure that Guahan is provided necessary funding for all of its public services."

Camacho expressed his enthusiasm at being able to have these grants benefit not only the people of Guam but also to its island brothers and sisters. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 1st birthday to our lil' firefighter baby, Zion Darrel Reyes Castro! May God bless you and, though you may not fully understand it, we hope you enjoy your special day in every way. Mommy and Daddy love you always and forever.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



This happy birthday shoutout goes out to the founder and owner of Salbahe Inc., Rob Travilla, who celebrates his birthday today and this entire weekend with the Salbahe La Familia! Cheers to another year! Bottoms up and party it up like the star that you are, man! Much love coming out from Loly, Riana Joy and your entire LaFamilia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy, happy birthday greetings to Christian August Bonifacio Aguon, who is celebrating his birthday today, Dec. 16! Have an awesomely great and fantastic day and may you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Hoping all your birthday dreams and wishes come true! Much love coming out from all your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Birthday greetings go out to Hank P. Arurang Jr., who is celebrating his birthday today. Best wishes come from your families and many more to come. God bless and love always.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Santa is Coming to Town!

Visit our Galleria for your gift to that special someone and have a photo opportunity with Santa...

Santa's Schedule

December 17th : 6pm-10pm • 18th : 11am-2pm & 6pm-10pm
19th : 11am-2pm & 6pm-10pm • 20th - 24th : 6pm-10pm
25 : 11am-2pm & 6pm-10pm

Business

Earmarkers feast on pork one last time before diet

WASHINGTON (AP)—The spending barons on Capitol Hill, long used to muscling past opponents of bills larded with pet projects, are seeking one last victory before tea party-backed GOP insurgents storm Congress intent on ending the good old days of pork-barrel politics.

You might call it the last running of the old bulls in Congress.

In the waning days of the lame duck congressional session, Democrats controlling the Senate—in collaboration with a handful of old school Republicans—are pushing to wrap \$1.27 trillion worth of unfinished budget work into a single “omnibus” appropriations bill.

Their 1,900-plus-page bill comes to the floor this week stuffed with provisions sought by lawmakers. It contains thousands of pet projects, known as earmarks, pushed by Democratic and GOP senators alike—despite a pledge by Republicans to give up such projects next year.

“That omnibus bill will be loaded down with earmarks and pork-barrel spending, which is a direct—a direct—betrayal of the majority of voters on Nov. 2 who said ‘Stop the earmarking, stop the spending, stop the pork-barrel projects,’” protested Sen.



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., walk on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010.

John McCain, R-Ariz.

Altogether, the bill contains about \$8 billion worth of earmarks, less than in previous years since House Republicans didn’t ask for any. The earmarked funds equal less than 1 percent of the measure.

The catchall bill is designed to bankroll the operations of every Cabinet agency for the budget year that started Oct. 1, as well as \$158 billion to pay for

wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It also challenges President Barack Obama. One administration-opposed provision would block the Pentagon from transferring Guantanamo Bay prisoners to the United States. Another would provide \$450 million for a program to develop a second engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter despite a veto threat by the administration, which says it’s a waste of money.

The architect of the measure, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, has been working with senior Republicans on the panel—Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Robert Bennett of Utah and Kit Bond of Missouri, among others—to line up the 60 votes needed to repel a filibuster promised by GOP Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina and other conservatives.

Japan business confidence falls amid strong yen

TOKYO (AP)—Business sentiment in Japan has fallen for the first time in seven quarters as worries about a persistently strong yen and slowing exports hit corporate confidence.

The Bank of Japan’s quarterly “tankan” survey of business

sentiment released Wednesday showed that the main index for large manufacturers fell to 5 in December from 8 three months ago.

The figure represents the percentage of companies saying business conditions are good

minus those saying conditions are unfavorable, with 100 representing the best mood and minus 100 the worst.

The result from the latest tankan—a closely watched barometer of the country’s economic health that helps the central bank guide monetary policy—is slightly better than Kyodo news agency’s average market forecast for a reading of 3.

The index had climbed for six straight quarters as Japan mounted a solid recovery from deep recession. But a strong yen and easing global demand are battering exporters, which have been the main drivers of Japan’s growth. Automakers like Toyota Motor Corp. are also feeling the impact from the expiration of government subsidies for fuel efficient cars.

“The improvement that began in March 2009 ... came to an end, giving way to deterioration, albeit small,” said Goldman Sachs economist Chiwoong Lee in a note to clients. Readings varied among sec-

tors, he said. Metals and oil companies, which benefited from higher commodity prices, reported improving sentiment, but the mood at automakers tumbled.

The latest result suggests that companies are bracing for tougher times ahead. They predict confidence will keep deteriorating, with large manufacturers saying they expect the index to be in negative territory for the first time since March.

Recent economic indicators have only reinforced concerns about the world’s third-biggest economy.

Japanese factories cut production for the fifth straight month in October, and consumer spending fell. Consumer prices have fallen for 20 straight months. Unemployment worsened to 5.1 percent—historically high for Japan.

In a recent survey of 42 economists, the government-affiliated Economic Planning Association forecast Wednesday that gross domestic product would shrink 1.9 percent in the fourth quarter.

Dems mull changes in tax bill despite GOP warning

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats considered changes in legislation to avoid a Jan. 1 jump in income taxes on Tuesday, despite a warning from Republicans that the bill’s passage could be endangered as a result.

“This agreement is not subject to being reopened,” said Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. “In other words, we have an understanding.”

President Barack Obama announced the agreement a week ago, saying it had been worked out with leading lawmakers in both parties and was essential to help strengthen an economy still struggling to recover from the worst recession in decades.

There is little disagreement among lawmakers about many elements of the bill, but a provision to benefit the wealthy by easing the estate tax draws strong opposition from House liberals.

The Democratic rank-and-file voted last week not to permit the bill to come to a vote unless it had been changed first. They appear to have dropped their ultimatum, and arranged a closed-door evening meeting to review other ways to make revisions.

The measure commands strong bipartisan support in the Senate, which voted 83-15 on Monday to advance it to a final vote that is expected either late

Tuesday or possibly Wednesday.

At its core, the bill would extend tax cuts at all income levels that were enacted during the presidency of George W. Bush. It also would renew a program of jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed that is due to lapse, and enact a one-year cut in Social Security taxes. The bill’s cost, \$858 billion, would be added to the deficit.

At the insistence of Republicans, the plan includes a more generous estate tax provision: The first \$10 million of a couple’s estate could pass to heirs without taxation. The balance would be subject to a 35 percent tax rate.

The lower estate tax infuriated some Democrats who were already unhappy with Obama for agreeing to extend tax cuts for individuals making more than \$200,000 and couples making more than \$250,000.

The estate tax was repealed for 2010. But under current law, it is scheduled to return next year with a top rate of 55 percent on the portion estates above \$1 million—\$2 million for couples.

House Democratic leaders want to bring back the 2009 estate tax levels. That year, individuals could pass \$3.5 million to their heirs, tax-free. Couples could pass \$7 million, with a little tax planning, and the balance was taxed at a top rate of 45 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Best Buy settles overcharging allegations in Conn.

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Best Buy Co. Inc. has settled a Connecticut lawsuit that accused it of advertising lower prices on some items on its website than at in-store kiosks, then overcharging customers at the stores. The consumer electronics retailer did not admit wrongdoing as part of the 2007 lawsuit’s settlement, filed Monday in Hartford Superior Court. It agreed to pay \$399,000 to Connecticut’s government general fund and reimburse affected customers for the difference between the online prices and the

higher in-store kiosk prices they were charged.

Oil slips below \$88 on US crude supplies

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices slipped below \$88 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after U.S. crude supplies fell less than expected and gasoline inventories jumped, suggesting demand remains sluggish. Benchmark oil for January delivery was down 35 cents to \$87.93 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 33 cents to settle at \$88.28 on Tuesday.

Comparing the estate tax

How the estate tax in the new Obama-Republican tax cut compromise compares to the estate tax that is scheduled to take effect in 2011:

2011 law: \$1 million is exempt; 55 percent top tax rate

Tax cut deal: \$5 million is exempt; 35 percent top tax rate

Size of gross estate in millions	NUMBER OF ESTATES		NET ESTATE OWED in billions	
	2011 law	Tax cut deal	2011 law	Tax cut deal
Less than \$1.0	0	0	\$0	\$0
1.0-2.0	21,700	0	2.38	0
2.0-3.0	11,950	0	5.43	0
3.0-5.0	4,010	0	3.55	0
5.0-10.0	3,650	1,580	6.39	1.05
10.0-20.0	1,230	1,200	4.99	2.11
More than \$20.0	950	820	11.71	8.21
All	43,540	3,600	34.44	11.37

With the tax cut deal

- 40,746 fewer estates have to pay tax
- \$23.1 billion is exempt from tax
- Average savings per estate: \$566,190

Source: Tax Policy Center Graphed: Judy Trebes © 2010 MCT

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 11,476.54 +47.98 +0.42%	S&P 1,241.59 0.00 0.00%	NASDAQ 2,627.72 +2.81 +0.11%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7740	Philippine Peso	43.9150
Australian Dollar	1.0057	Singapore Dollar	1.3085
British Pound	0.6348	South Korean Won	1,150.40
Canadian Dollar	1.0080	Swiss Franc	0.9628
Chinese Yuan	6.6581	Taiwan Dollar	29.9160
Euro	0.7495	Thailand Baht	30.0750

Nation

Cops: Man fires at Fla. school board; kills self

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (AP)—A gunman calmly walked up to a podium, spray painted a red “V” with a circle around it on a wall and opened fire at school board members Tuesday, sending people scrambling and diving for cover. A security guard soon ran in, exchanged shots with and wounded the man who then killed himself, police said.

No one else was injured. In video of portions of the clash that lasted several minutes, the gunman, Clay A. Duke, is shown calmly confronting the Bay District school board, telling everyone in the room to leave except the men on the board. Duke, who was wearing a dark pullover coat, stands about 8 feet directly in front of the board with the gun at his side.

Superintendent Bill Husfelt tries to persuade him to drop the gun. Duke suggests that his wife had been fired from the district, but won’t tell Husfelt or the board who she is or her job. Members promise to help her find a new job, but Duke just shakes his head.



Paramedics transport a gunman who was shot dead after he disrupted a Bay District School Board meeting in Panama City, Fla., on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010.

Husfelt tells Duke he would be ultimately responsible, so the board members should be

allowed to leave.

“I’ve got a feeling you want the cops to come in and kill you

because you said you are going to die today,” Husfelt tells Duke. He then tells Duke that this isn’t

worth it. The 56-year-old slowly and deliberately raises the gun and levels it Husfelt, who

pleads “Please don’t, please don’t.” Duke then fires a shot that misses, followed by several others that didn’t hit anyone.

Before he fired the shots, member Ginger Littleton, who had left the room as ordered, is shown sneaking up behind Duke as he stands next to the board and whacking him on the arm with her large, brown purse made of an alligator-like material.

“In my mind, that was the last attempt or opportunity to divert him,” she told The Associated Press.

Duke, a large, heavyset man, got angry, turned around, and she fell to the floor and board members pleaded with her to stop. Duke pointed the gun at her head and said, “You stupid b----” but he didn’t shoot her, she said. She’s not sure why.

“He had every opportunity to take me out,” she said.

After Duke, an ex-convict, fired and missed Husfelt, district security chief and former police officer Mike Jones ran in and shot Duke, it appears in the video in the leg or side.

White House insists health law rollout unaffected

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House insisted Tuesday that the implementation of President Barack Obama’s landmark health care law will not be affected by a negative federal court ruling, and the Justice Department said it would appeal.

“There’s no practical impact at all as states move forward in implementing ... the law that Congress passed and the president signed,” White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters.

Justice Department spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer said that, as expected, the department would appeal Monday’s ruling by U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson in Virginia. Hudson declared that a central provision of the law—the requirement for nearly everyone to carry health insurance—was unconstitutional.

The ruling by the Republican-appointed judge in a high-profile lawsuit by Virginia’s Republican attorney general was a setback for the Obama adminis-



White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs gestures during his daily news briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010.

tration, but not a surprise. Two other district court judges, both Democratic appointees, have found the law constitutional.

Obama administration officials noted that consultations with states on implementing the law were moving forward. Later this week officials from all but a handful of states are

expected to travel to Washington to meet with the Health and Human Services Department to discuss setting up the state-based insurance marketplaces, called exchanges, required by the new law.

These include officials from many of the 20 states that are simultaneously suing to overturn

the law in a fourth case which begins oral arguments Thursday in Florida. Many state officials have concluded that it’s better to participate in discussions on implementing the law than not, even if they don’t support it. Even so, Republican members of Congress seized on Hudson’s ruling to caution states against moving forward.

Central provisions of the law including the exchanges and the requirement for everyone to be insured don’t take effect until 2014 anyway. By then the Supreme Court will likely have weighed in with the final verdict on the health law.

Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell, a Republican, urged the Obama administration Tuesday to join him in seeking to take the cases straight to the Supreme Court, bypassing the appeals process, in order to provide certainty for states and businesses. Such a course is highly unusual, and the Justice Department weighed in against it.

Police: Bellagio heist similar to earlier robbery

LAS VEGAS (AP)—An armed bandit escaped Tuesday on a motorcycle after stealing at least \$1.5 million in casino chips from the posh Bellagio resort and may have pulled a similar caper across town less than a week ago, police said.

The thief took Bellagio chips ranging in value from \$100 to \$25,000, and authorities plan to watch for anyone trying to cash high-denomination chips at the Italian-themed casino with a wall of famous fountains along the Las Vegas Strip.

The robbery had the makings of a scene straight out of a Hollywood caper. Police say a man wearing a jumpsuit and a motorcycle helmet with white stripes walked into the casino with a gun, robbed a craps table then sped away on a motorcycle in the dead of night.

The culprit, however, might find it hard to redeem his loot at any other casino except Bellagio.

The 3:50 a.m. robbery

happened “about as quick as you can do it,” police Lt. Clinton Nichols told The Associated Press.

Police later released an 11-second video showing a man running through a casino entry lobby with a gun in his right hand. At one point, he turned and pointed the weapon behind him.

Police suspect the same man wore a helmet, flashed a gun and sped away on a black sport motorcycle after robbing the Las Vegas Suncoast Hotel & Casino poker room about on Dec. 9.

That heist netted less than \$20,000 from a poker room cashier, police said. Police also released several photos Tuesday of the robber at the Suncoast.

Estimates of the amount taken from Bellagio varied. Nichols said it could approach \$2 million. In a press release, police put the amount at about \$1.5 million.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mass. jury: Firm gave black kids free cigarettes

BOSTON (AP)—A jury has ruled the Lorillard Tobacco Co. tried to entice black children to become smokers by handing out free cigarettes and has awarded \$71 million in compensatory damages to the estate and son of a woman who died of lung cancer. The

Suffolk Superior Court jury announced its verdict Tuesday after hearing weeks of testimony. Willie Evans alleged Lorillard introduced his mother, Marie Evans, to smoking as a child in the late 1950s by giving her free Newport cigarettes at the Orchard Park housing project in Boston, where she lived. He said his mother smoked for more than 40 years before dy-

ing of lung cancer at age 54.

Mother killed, 5 hurt in gunbattle at Calif. mall

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A mother loading her 2-year-old son into an SUV was killed Tuesday and five others were wounded in a gunbattle at a strip mall in south Sacramento, authorities said. Two men were inside a barber

shop just before 1 p.m. when two other men came in and started shooting, said Sacramento County Sheriff’s Sgt. Tim Curran. The men in the barber shop were armed and returned fire, Curran said. The gunbattle apparently moved into the parking lot with at least one of the suspects getting into a white sedan. Curran said the gunfire continued as some of

the suspects got away.

3 Hebrew Boys’ sentenced to decades in prison

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Three men who called themselves the “3 Hebrew Boys,” using the Biblical story of faith to create a scheme that prosecutors said fleeced thousands of people out of more than

\$80 million, will each spend decades in prison. Timothy McQueen, 52, and Joseph Brunson, 47, were each sentenced to 27 years in prison and Tony Pough, 48, was sentenced to 30 years Tuesday after a day-long hearing. The three, all from Columbia, were convicted in November 2009 of 58 counts each of mail fraud, money laundering and other charges.

Asia

Asylum seekers die as boat sinks off Australia

SYDNEY (AP)—Several asylum seekers were killed when their boat crashed into cliff-side rocks and sank in heavy seas at an island off Australia's coast Wednesday, Australia's acting prime minister said. Witnesses described seeing dead bodies—including children—floating in the water.

Rescue efforts were under way and officials said it was not immediately clear how many people were dead. The boat crashed into jagged rocks below a cliff on Christmas Island, an Australian territory in the Indian Ocean where refugee hopefuls are housed in a detention center.

"A people smuggler's boat has crashed into the rocks," Acting Prime Minister Wayne Swan said. "A number of people have been rescued but sadly, some bodies have been retrieved."

Swan said he did not know how many people were on board the boat, or where the

asylum seekers were from.

A series of photographs taken at the scene and published on The West Australian newspaper's website show the wooden boat crashing into the rocks and breaking apart. The images also show people floating in the water amongst the wreckage. It is unclear if they are alive or dead. The boat was about about 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters) long, with a cabin covered by a sheet of fabric or plastic.

Simon Prince, who lives next to the cliff where the boat crashed, told The Associated Press he was woken early Wednesday by what he thought were cheers. He walked outside to the cliff and instead heard cries for help from a boat just offshore.

"The engine had failed," Prince told the AP. "They were washing backward and forward very close to the cliffs here, which are jagged limestone

cliffs, very nasty."

Prince called the police and soon there were dozens of locals standing on the cliffs, wondering how they could help despite the storm and crashing waves.

He said the boat, carrying about 50 people, tossed for an hour before it finally hit the rocks at the base of the cliff.

"When the boat hit the cliff there was a sickening crack. All the people on board rushed to the land side, which is the worst thing they could do, but I don't think anybody could swim. I think there were about two lifeboats on board this thing," Prince said.

"It was just horrible. People getting crushed. Bodies, dead children, the whole thing was pretty awful."

Prince, who owns a dive shop, and other neighbors began hurling lifejackets into the water, 50 or 60 of them. But many just floated away.

IN CELEBRATED PH MASSACRE CASE

False testimony raps prepared vs state witness

By Tetch Torres
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Criminal case will be filed against former government state witness Jessica Alfaro for lying in court which led to the conviction of Hubert Webb and seven others in connection with the Vizconde massacre case, lawyer Jose Flaminiano said.

Flaminiano said he will file a case of false testimony against Alfaro.

The Supreme Court, in its decision, pointed to the inconsistencies of Alfaro in her testimonies as the main reason for the acquittal of Webb, Antonio Lejano II, Michael Gatchalian, Miguel Rodriguez, Peter Estrada, Hospicio "Pyke" Fernandez, and Gerardo Biong.

The high court called Alfaro as the "pigeon stool who fraternizes with criminals for a living and squeals it to the NBI."

It said that Alfaro, contrary to claims of the prosecution, is not actually an eye witness but a National Bureau of Investigation agent who takes advantage of her position to acquire knowledge on the progress of investigation and use it in her testimony.

"These people lost 15 years of their lives because of her fabricated testimony," Flaminiano said over the phone.

Flaminiano said that under the Revised Penal Code, any person who shall give false testimony against the defendant in any criminal case shall suffer the similar penalty had the accused been convicted of that offense.

He said his clients will seek the extradition of Alfaro who is believed to be currently residing

in the United States.

"We will file the complaint, there will be a preliminary investigation and if there is probable cause, it will be filed in court, once the case is in court, we will ask for her extradition," Flaminiano said adding that they are confident that the case that they will file will reach the court.

"Because no less than the Supreme Court has acquitted them," Flaminiano said.

At the same time, Flaminiano said he and his clients are also studying the possibility of filing criminal and administrative case against agents of the NBI, and private and public prosecutors either before the Department of Justice (DoJ) or the Office of the Ombudsman.

Counsels of the seven which the high court acquitted will meet this Saturday to finalize their actions, Flaminiano said.

on a 2007 conversation between former Prime Minister Lee and U.S. officials was released by WikiLeaks this week. It quoted Lee as saying that dealing with Myanmar's military regime was like "talking to dead people."

Mentally ill workers enslaved in China rescued

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities have rescued a group of mentally ill workers enslaved in a factory after being sold by a man who purportedly ran a beggars' shelter, state media reported Wednesday. Police on Tuesday nabbed Li Xinglin, the boss of the building materials factory in the far-western Xinjiang region who had fled Sunday after Chinese media reports exposed the plant's working conditions, the official Xinhua News Agency said. His son, Li Chenglong, was also nabbed in Chengdu, capital of southwestern Sichuan province, while the 12 mentally ill workers he had taken with him were placed in government custody.

World

Sweden appeals UK granting bail for Julian Assange

LONDON (AP)—A British judge ordered Julian Assange released on 200,000 pounds (\$316,000) bail Tuesday, but the WikiLeaks founder will remain in custody for at least two more days after Swedish prosecutors challenged that decision.

Assange has spent a week in

a U.K. jail following his surrender to British police over a Swedish sex-crimes warrant. He denies any wrongdoing but has refused to voluntarily surrender to Sweden's request to extradite him for questioning—arguing that he could be questioned from Britain.



AP
People take part in a protest supporting Julian Assange outside Westminster Magistrates Court in London, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010.

Mexican border city hits 3,000 dead in drug war

MEXICO CITY (AP)—This year's death toll in drug-related violence in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, the hardest hit by Mexico's drug war, rose to 3,000 Tuesday after two men were shot dead on a street, authorities said.

Ciudad Juarez has seen its homicide rate rise to one of the highest in the world after vicious turf battles broke out between gangs representing the Juarez and Sinaloa drug cartels in 2008.

That year, 1,623 people were killed in drug-related violence, and the toll increased to 2,763 deaths in 2009.

With prosecutors' spokesman Arturo Sandoval announcing the latest grim milestone, a total of 7,386 people have died in the city of 1.3 million people across the border from El Paso, Texas, in three years. Most

were members of rival drug gangs, but civilians, police and recovering drug addicts have also been targeted.

More than 28,000 people have died throughout Mexico in the four years since President Felipe Calderon launched an offensive against drug cartels when he took office in December 2006.

The U.S. Embassy touted Mexico's increased cooperation in anti-drug efforts, noting in a statement that on Tuesday Mexico extradited 14 suspects wanted in the United States on drug, organized crime, money laundering, weapons and homicide charges.

The extraditions "represent another victory in our joint fight against organized crime," the embassy said.

And touting Mexico's own

In a day of courtroom drama, the 39-year-old Australian was first told by a judge that he would be freed, then less than two hours later was informed he had at least another 48 hours in custody.

Britain's High Court will hear the Swedish appeal, but it wasn't clear exactly when.

"They clearly will not spare any expense to keep Mr. Assange in jail," his lawyer Mark Stephens told journalists outside the entrance to the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court in London. "This is really turning into a show trial."

Lawyer Gemma Lindfield, acting for Sweden, had asked the court to deny Assange bail, arguing Tuesday that the allegations against him were serious, that he had only weak ties to Britain and that he had "the means and ability to abscond."

successes in the offensive, Calderon said Tuesday that a big party led to the demise of a drug cartel chief, who was killed in a shootout with federal police.

The La Familia gang invited hundreds of people to a party last week in the western city of Apatzingan and didn't bother to keep it a secret, Calderon said in an interview with W Radio.

Federal police learned about it and the shootout broke out when they arrived to investigate, he said. The government says that La Familia leader Nazario Moreno, nicknamed "The Craziest One," was killed in battles that lasted two days and spread to key parts of Michoacan state, with gunmen blockading roads with burning vehicles.

WORLD BRIEFS

Report: KLA behind deadly human kidney trade

PARIS (AP)—Civilians detained by the Kosovo Liberation Army were allegedly shot to death in northern Albania so their kidneys could be extracted and sold on the black market after the war in Kosovo ended in 1999, according to a report prepared for Europe's premier human rights watchdog. The report by Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty—more than two years in the making—also suggested Kosovo's U.S.-backed prime minister was once the "boss" of a criminal underworld behind the alleged grisly trade.

Chavez seeks power to rule by decree for 1 year

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez asked congress Tuesday to grant him special powers to enact laws by decree for one year, just before a new legislature takes office with a larger contingent of opposition lawmakers. The measure would give the president the authority to bypass the National Assembly for the fourth time since he was first

elected almost 12 years ago. Vice President Elias Jaua made the request on Chavez's behalf, saying the president will use the authorization to ensure fast-track approval of laws aimed at helping the nation recover from severe flooding and mudslides that left thousands homeless and in government shelters.

Berlusconi wins confidence vote in Italy—barely

ROME (AP)—Silvio Berlusconi pulled off another astonishing escape from the political dead, scraping through two confidence votes Tuesday in a dramatic parliamentary showdown. But the Italian leader's hold on power remains precarious as his razor-thin victory makes political gridlock a near certainty—and violent street protests show growing unease with his rule. Masked protesters torched cars and trash bins, smashed shop windows and clashed with police. Clouds of white tear gas and orange flares engulfed streets, as shops full of Christmas goods hurriedly closed down. Employees at one bank cowered in fear as a group of stone-throwing youths swept by.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Dozens killed in Bangladesh factory fire; 100 hurt

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Dozens of people were killed after a devastating blaze raced through a garment factory that supplies major multinationals such as Gap and JCPenney near Bangladesh's capital. Many of the dead included trapped workers who jumped from the smoldering building engulfed by flames, witnesses at the scene said. Fire official Golam Mostafa said the fire Tuesday started in a 10-story factory owned by local business giant Ha-Meem Group in the Ashulia industrial zone, just outside Dhaka. It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze, and the government ordered an investigation.

WikiLeaks: Singapore Lee says Myanmar 'stupid'

SINGAPORE (AP)—A classified U.S. document released by WikiLeaks cites Singapore statesman Lee Kuan Yew as calling Myanmar's junta leaders "stupid" and "dense." A confidential briefing

Focus

Tale of 2 sisters points to changing Gypsy world

By **GEORGE JAHN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UDUPU, Romania (AP)—Halfway through another 12-hour day, Narcisa Tranca scrubs the floor, one eye on her infant son and her thoughts on the tasks ahead: cleaning, cooking, feeding the pigs and chickens.

Forced to abandon big dreams and marry at 15, this has been her life for the past seven years, locked in a joyless union she has come to accept.

On the outskirts of Bucharest, the teeming capital to the west of this drab village, younger sister Claudia takes a break from her English homework. She is in her last year of high school and preparing for college, where she plans to study languages.

Asked about marriage, the straight-A student giggles, shrugs, and says: "There's time."

Though separated by only four years and a two-hour drive, Narcisa, 22, and Claudia, 18, are worlds apart. Their lives represent more than a tale of two gifted sisters going separate ways.

They are Gypsies. Their story reflects creeping change within Europe's downtrodden minority. They offer a glimmer of hope that coming generations of girls may be allowed to choose education rather than early marriage, empowering them to escape squalor on the fringes of society.

"I was wrong," says Marcel Tranca, when asked about his decision to force his daughter Narcisa into marriage. Looking at Claudia, he adds: "But I learned from that mistake."

Among Gypsies, or Roma, marrying young is a tradition born of the need to survive in an environment where young women were fair game for non-Roma men.

Romanian Roma, in particular, turned to early marriage during 500 years of slavery that ended only in the 19th century. Married girls were less likely to be raped by their owners, a fate that turned Roma girls and their children into outcasts wanted neither by the "white" nor Roma society.

No statistics exist on the number of underage girls forced into illegal marriage-like arrangements among Eastern Europe's more than 5 million Roma. But a 2008 Romanian report said 55 percent of female Gypsies had their first pregnancy while under 18 compared to 14 percent of non-Gypsy Romanians.

Recent reports of a Roma girl who gave birth in Spain at age 10 may have been overblown; neighbors from her Roma community said she was at least 13. Still, dozens of documented examples over the past decade of Roma girls being "married off" at 12 or 13 indicate that such cases are no rarity in the Gypsy world.

Figures on schooling also show Roma at a huge disadvantage. A 2006 United Nations Development Program survey on Roma in Southeastern Europe showed that two of three Roma in the region do not complete primary school, and two of five do not even start school. One in four was illiterate, and

just 8 percent had completed secondary school or above.

In the recent past, many Roma kids had no chance even if their parents favored education for them. In the Czech Republic, Slovakia and elsewhere they were sometimes put into schools for the mentally handicapped on the basis of race alone, a practice that is now changing only after massive international outrage.

Criticism of discrimination against Roma has been amplified by recent expulsions of Gypsies from France. But beyond the prejudices, rigid attitudes toward education and marriage also play their role in trapping Roma in their cycle of hardship.

Still, a ray of hope is offered by girls like Claudia. And there are signs that Gypsy attitudes toward education are fitfully evolving. There were 109,000 Gypsies attending Romanian schools in 1990; now there are between 238,000 and 260,000, according to the Education Ministry. The increase is larger than the rise in the Gypsy population.

A poll by Gallup and the Roma Education Fund released last year showed about 1,420 Roma students enrolled in 2006 in places reserved for them at Romanian universities and similar higher institutions. That is a four-fold increase since 2000.

"They gossip about me, they feel sorry for me, they say my kid cannot find anyone to marry," Marcel Tranca says, speaking about other Gypsy parents' reactions to the status of his daughters. "I don't care. ... The other girls in the neighborhood come to ask advice of Claudia. She is like a role model."

Narcisa was scarcely into adolescence when word of her virtues started spreading along the Roma grape vine. Slender, with expressive almond-shaped eyes, Narcisa already was a beauty at 14. More important, she worked hard, able to toil long hours for her future husband while bearing many children.

The Rupitas were interested. Son Marin was already at marrying age at

“**Marriage is an important step. It's not for children.**”

16 and his parents, prosperous livestock traders in Udupu who spent much of their lives on the road, needed someone who would take over household duties and start giving them grandchildren.

With the blessing of both households, a cousin brought Marin to meet Narcisa in Bucharest. A dowry of \$2,000 for Narcisa changed hands sometime between the first of four brief meetings and their wedding seven months later. The ceremony was a feast reported back then by The Associated Press:

Diesel fumes mingled with the smell of barbecue at the Corina truck stop



In this Nov. 25, 2010 picture, Narcisa Tranca, 22, top, poses with her sister Claudia, 18, left, and two of her children in Udupu, Romania. Among Gypsies, or Roma, marrying young is a tradition born of the need to survive in an environment where young women were fair game for non-Roma men. Romanian Roma, in particular, turned to early marriage during 500 years of slavery that ended only in the 19th century.

restaurant outside Bucharest. Roused by frenetic clarinet licks, the dancing crowd pumped fists into the air and swayed to Gypsy folk, an eclectic mix of Romanian pop and traditional Roma music.

'Long live my husband.' I've got the perfect wife,' the sweat-drenched singer wailed.

Broad grins split the faces of the

mouth. 'I told them again and again, but my parents just wouldn't listen.'

Marin, the groom, said he wanted two girls and two boys. Asked if his wife-to-be agreed, he grinned and said: 'I don't know. I haven't asked her yet.'

School? 'Not once she's in my house,' said Marin, who dropped out of elementary school after fourth grade. 'She'll be busy with housework.'

Fast forward seven years to Udupu, where horse-drawn carts vie for right of way with cars on the rutted road bisecting the village. Chicken scratch the dirt in the yard of Narcisa's home, and pigs squeal in the background.

Narcisa stands Madonna-like in her drafty kitchen holding her 18-month-old son, her two daughters 6 and 4 huddled around her. With her delicately modeled face and figure, she still looks more the child forced to wed in 2003 than the young woman now working hard for her children, her husband, and her rough-hewn in-laws.

Husband Marin smiles when asked about his marriage, but his eyes reflect wariness.

"Of course we discuss things. She has her say in running the household," he says. "But I do what I want."

When pressed, he says he wants his kids to stay in school "so they know more than we do." But he winces when asked what his parents think; Narcisa

hastily interjects: "We have lots of time to cross that bridge."

She is wistful about her own lost chance at education, saying "I would have loved to have stayed in school, gotten a good job, had a chance to stay longer with my family."

"Claudia has more freedom, less cares. I'm happy for her, but I wish I could be in her shoes."

She shakes her head when asked if she resents her parents for pushing her into marriage.

"It's not their fault," she says. "It's destiny."

By Roma standards, Marcel Tranca is an educated man. The 40-year-old unemployed mechanic and driver finished grade 10 at regular school and then went on at night school to grade 12, a year short of a diploma.

"I regret it now," he said of his decision to quit. "I could have finished, I could have gone on to university."

What prompted him to force his first born into a dead-end life? And why is he letting Claudia go on with her schooling?

"It was Gypsy custom but I regretted it shortly after we agreed to the marriage," Tranca says over coffee and biscuits in the tidy pink-painted foyer of his house, a two-story dwelling crowned with fanciful turrets of tin.

"I cried every time I left her with her new family. I realized she missed her childhood. Even after she married I wanted to put her back to school but then the babies came, one after the other," he says.

Marcel has other plans for his own children still at home—Claudia, 17-year-old son Amir, and 4-year-old daughter Anna-Maria.

"I want them to see the world, I want them to have good jobs," he says. "I want them to have a chance. ... It has something to do with our age and our times."

Wife Mihaela joins in from the background—her place, as dictated by Roma custom.

"Marriage is an important step," she says softly. "It's not for children."

Bookish and soft-spoken, Claudia already has seen more of the world than Narcisa probably ever will. She has participated in two monthlong high-school student exchanges to the United States—to North Carolina in the east and Washington state in the west—and wants to study at a university outside of Romania.

Marriage? A family? Yes, says Claudia, but only after a good education.

Quietly enthusiastic as she speaks of her plans to get a Masters degree, her mood turns somber when talk turns to Narcisa.

"It's difficult for her," she says. "She tries to educate him, but his male ego gets in the way. He just won't listen."

"She's the one who has always encouraged me ... the one who always says 'don't miss out on the chance I never had.'"

Jahn attended Narcisa's wedding seven years ago and revisited her last month. Alison Mutler and Alina Wolfe-Murray contributed to this report.

Environment

Gift-wrapping falls out of favor to gift bags and greener times

By EVE MITCHELL
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

WALNUT CREEK, Calif.—Anthony Bryndza left the gift-wrapping department at the Macy's at Union Square in San Francisco with a package wrapped in a heavy silver paper, trimmed with bright green ribbon and a decorative bell.

"If I tried to do it myself, it would look like I did it myself. It's a beautiful job," said the 68-year-old San Francisco resident.

Bryndza paid \$11 for the holiday present to be wrapped, which will be given to a needy recipient through a community gift-giving program. "It's just to make it as nice as possible for the guy who is getting it," he said.

There are some shoppers like Bryndza, who believe a professional wrapping is just as important as the present itself. But that's not the case for most consumers at a time of changing tastes and the growing popularity of gift cards and gift bags.

In March, Macy's shut down its gift-wrapping service at most stores nationwide, except for its Union Square store and four other locations. JCPen-



RAY CHAVEZ/CONTRA COSTA TIMES/MCT
Chelsea Fiero, 16, left, and her mother, Julie Allen, show off some of their wrapped holiday gifts at home in Leandro, California, on December 2, 2010. More stores are no longer offering gift-wrapping services so buyers must do it themselves.

WRAP IT UP

You may have a hard time finding a gift-wrapping service at most brick-and-mortar stores, but the service is still out there. Some Hallmark stores offer gift wrapping services. Also, some UPS stores offer gift-wrapping

services and/or gift boxes in addition to shipping service.

Gift wrapping services are available at some malls in exchange for donations that support participating nonprofits.

Check out Craigslist.org to find people who provide gift-wrapping services. On the home page, click on the services link, then type in gift wrapping in the search bar while checking the entire post option.

ney shut down its gift-wrapping service several years ago.

"Three years ago, we began to shift away from gift-wrap departments based on reduced customer demand for gift-wrapping services. In part, this may be part of a societal environmental sensitivity for using less paper. In part, customers are preferring less formal wrapping options (i.e.,

gift bags)," Macy's spokeswoman Laura Smith said in an e-mail. She added that Macy's will continue to provide gift-wrapping at stores where demand continues for the service.

Upon request, many department stores—including Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Nordstrom, JCPenney and Sears, along with specialty retailers such as Victoria's Secret—pro-

vide customers with a free gift box for merchandise purchased inside a store. But that's not quite the same as a present all wrapped up with pretty paper, ribbons and bows.

Some enterprising people like Julie Allen, a San Leandro, Calif., resident, do gift-wrapping for people who don't like to wrap presents or don't have the time.

"A lot of them are men who don't

want to wrap presents, or families that are super-busy and just don't have the time," said Allen, 37, whose day job is working at an insurance company.

To date this year, she has five customers—three men and two families. "Both of the parents are working and don't have time," she said.

Last year, she had about 25 customers.

"It works out well for me. It brings in a little bit of cash for the holidays. I like to wrap presents," said Allen, who put a posting on Craigslist to advertise her gift-wrapping service, which charges \$5 for small presents and \$7 for medium presents (paper and ribbon included). Prices for larger presents vary by size.

Cheryl Keyes, a 69-year-old Martinez, Calif., resident, likes the idea of a professionally wrapped gift, but not to the point of paying for the service when buying a

lot of holiday presents.

"I'd rather they did it, but I don't want to pay for it. It's cheaper (to wrap presents yourself) but it's not easier," said Keyes, who would consider paying for a store to gift wrap a single present, such as a bridal gift.

In today's retail marketplace, most consumers don't place a priority on brick-and-mortar stores having a gift-wrapping service, said James Dion, founder and president of Chicago-based Dionco Inc., a retail consulting firm.

"They don't care about it for a lot of reasons. One is the time issue. In most cases, you had to leave your parcels and come back and get them when they were wrapped, or you would have to wait in a relatively long line to get your parcels wrapped. That is simply not the way most customers shop today," he said.

EPA removes saccharin from hazardous substances listing

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has removed saccharin, a common artificial sweetener, and its salts from the agency's list of hazardous substances. Saccharin is no longer considered a potential hazard to human health.

Saccharin is a white crystalline

powder that is found in diet soft drinks, chewing gum and juice. Saccharin was labeled a potentially cancer-causing substance in the 1980s. In the late 1990s, the National Toxicology Program and the International Agency

for Research on Cancer re-evaluated the available scientific information on saccharin and its salts and concluded that it is not a potential human carcinogen. Because the scientific basis

for remaining on EPA's lists no longer applies, the agency has removed saccharin and its salts from its lists.

EPA proposed the removal of saccharin and its salts from the lists on April 22, 2010 and did not receive any comments opposing the proposal. (EPA)

ON THE NET

■ <http://www.epa.gov/waste/hazard/wastetypes/wasteid/saccharin/index.htm>

DO YOUR PART

An eco-friendly twist to holiday gifts

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

So you've gone ahead and bought those hot holiday gifts for that special someone on your list. Now, Do Your Part to make them as eco-friendly as possible. Whether you've decided on an iPad or another in-demand gift, I've got the scoop on some fun, efficient, and oh-so-green accessories.

I'll start with the hottest gift on the market—the iPad. You may want to spend a ton of time picking out the perfect app, but don't forget to pick out the perfect case to protect your prized possession. There are beautifully and responsibly made cases—including ones made from bamboo, recycled leather or even recycled water bottles. They'll cost you anywhere from \$30 to \$90.

Another hot gift for the bookworm on your list is the Kindle. You can find protective cases made from 'eco-leather' that requires fewer dyes and toxins in the tanning process. Or, there are other cases made from eco-friendly mate-

rials such as hemp or recycled wool. Prices for these cases start around \$20.

If the iPhone or other hot cell phone is on Santa's list this year, you may want to think about getting a whole new kind of phone charger in. There are solar cell phone chargers which start around \$40. These will recharge your phones without using any electricity—ever. Or, think about AT&T's Zero Charger that automatically shuts off the power when it's not charging a phone. That's different from other chargers which sip energy (and money!) even when they're not charging a phone. You can pick one up for less than \$20.

There are plenty of other products that will help you save on energy and resources when it comes to those must-have electronics of the season. Consider a smart power strip. The outlets on this power strip work together to easily power on/off multiple electronics at one time. You can find them starting around \$30. Another smart investment is in rechargeable batteries. Americans use 300 billion disposable ones each

year and most of them end up in our landfills. A 4-pack of rechargeable AA batteries and charger will cost you less than \$20 and save you hundreds of batteries over its lifetime. We have links to all the products mentioned at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

It's also important to remember that hot holiday gifts don't actually have to be a product or thing. Some of the best gifts I've received are actually services. Who wouldn't love a gift certificate for a massage, house cleaning, or babysitting services? Those are gifts that are truly thoughtful and nearly waste-free.

Whether you're shopping for others or yourself during the holidays, make sure green items are on your list. It's another easy and economical way to Do Your Part during the season of giving.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

OCEANS to play first Friday in January

Disney's OCEANS will be featured at the next First Friday Films event—the first film for 2011. Bring the whole family to enjoy this beautifully shot movie on Friday, Jan. 7 at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park.

Nearly three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered by water and OCEANS boldly chronicles the mysteries that lie beneath. Directors Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud dive deep into the very waters that sustain all of mankind—exploring the harsh reality and the amazing creatures that live within. Narrated by Pierce Brosnan and featuring spectacular, never-before-seen imagery captured by the latest underwater technologies, OCEANS offers an unprecedented look beneath the sea in a powerful motion picture.

The Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the visitor's center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, "First Friday Films" is free and open to the public. Find more information at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (PR)



Life & Style

Saipan students explore Narnia book, movie

Alice Cooper, Darlene Love, Neil Diamond in Fame Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Diamond had been eligible for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for several years but never got a nomination to join music's prestigious club. But he was never really worried about it.

"I thought about it occasionally, but I kind of figured they'd get around to me at some point," he said in a phone interview.

That point came on Tuesday, as the 2011 class for the Cleveland hall was revealed. Diamond, whose hits include "Sweet Caroline," made the list, along with the Alice Cooper Band, New Orleans musician Dr. John, Darlene Love and singer-songwriter Tom Waits.

Piano man Leon Russell was honored with a musical excellence award, previously the sideman category. Executives Jac Holzman and Art Rupe were given the Ahmet Ertegun Awards.

It took three tries before Love, best known for hits such as "(Today I Met) The Boy I'm Gonna Marry" and her work with producer Phil Spector and the Blossoms, was approved for the hall. When reached on Tuesday, an enthusiastic Love said: "I can actually breathe."

"Finally it's done," she added. "It still hasn't hit me yet. I still have that nervous stomach, and I'm still excited."

The excitement will have to wait for some: Bon Jovi, nominated for the first time, was turned away from the hall, as was LL Cool J, the J. Geils Band, the Beastie Boys, Donna Summer and more.

Alice Cooper's name had been mentioned in conjunction with the Rock Hall for years, but the shock rocker hadn't been nominated until this year. Like Diamond, Cooper said he wasn't anxiously waiting.

"You know it crosses your mind, but then you think of all the guys who aren't in there, some of them before you, and you go, 'Wow.' ... You realize that it's a waiting game," he said in a phone interview. "I don't think you sit around holding your breath on it."

Cooper, a heavy metal rocker best known for his dark horror themes, said his band was responsible for bringing show business into rock 'n' roll.

"There was no spectacle in rock 'n' roll, and I think what we did was we kind of brought theater to rock 'n' roll," said Cooper, known for a goth look, heavy eyeliner and black shaggy hair. "It was sort of Cirque du Soleil before Cirque du Soleil. It was kind of a weird vaudeville that we did. But it all connected back to the lyrics. ... If we do a 10-hour rehearsal back then, nine hours was on the music, and one hour was on the theatrics."

Diamond was on the other end of the spectrum, a singer-songwriter whose first hit came in the form of a song he wrote for the Monkees, "I'm a Believer." His early hits in the 1960s included "Girl, You'll Be a Woman Soon" and "Cherry Cherry."

"The music I was doing was not in vogue. ... I was like a lone voice out there with a guitar, and it was different



In this Oct. 31, 2010 file photo, musician Alice Cooper performs his Halloween Night of Fear show at The Roundhouse in north London.

than what was going on because it was the English invasion and I wasn't doing that," Diamond said. "I think I've had so many hits because what I was putting out and what I was writing was very different for what was being played on the radio."

He's kept producing relevant material through the decades; he released his latest album this fall. Diamond said he was gratified to be in the hall and said his first choice to induct him would be a fan. Of his induction, he joked: "I'm glad they did it before I'm dead."

Love said she thought two of her biggest boosters for the hall—Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band's Stevie Van Zandt—would likely do the honors at the March 14 induction ceremony in New York City.

She was also happy for some of the other inductees, including Russell, who used to play on some of her sessions.

"This is going to be a helluva jam session," she quipped about the upcoming festivities.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School's Book Club hosts a screening for the fifth installment of the Narnia series, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*.

On Dec. 10, Saipan Southern High School's Book Club hosted a screening for the fifth installment of the Narnia series, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Over 100 students went on this field trip, including third grade students of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

SSHS librarian Sudi Napalan collaborated with SSHS Language Arts teachers Jonathan Aguon, Paul Muira, David Frahm and GTC's 3rd grade teacher Raena Bermudes to make the field trip happen.

Students read and dissected the book for three weeks then viewed the movie at the Hollywood Theaters on Friday morning.

Here's what some students have to say:

Cindy Benavente, SSHS freshman student: The film version of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, I believe stuck to the book for the most part. I, nevertheless, thought the book was a lot better than the film version. With the encouragement to read the book for both Book Club and English class, I discovered that there were several similarities and differences between the book and movie. The book was descriptive and distinct with its plot, which I found to be thorough yet amusing. The story's plot was relevant to the film version with an abundance of action scenes, which was exciting to view as a motion picture. The film additionally had incredible sound effects that conveyed a thrill of exuberance to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students pose in front of the movie poster for *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*.

the audience. Overall, I thought the movie was well-kept, which I enjoyed very much. I would definitely recommend everyone to read *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, especially to those who relish a combination of adventure, courage and true friendship!

Richie Xu, SSHS Junior student: I found the movie satisfactory. It wasn't mind-blowing, though the effects and suspense kept me entertained. Surprisingly, the movie does not accurately represent the events in the book. Overall, I felt that the movie really rushed through the story and that the storyline of the book is much better. Nevertheless, Book Club's movie tie-ins are a great way to get everyone raving about a book. (PR)

New 'American Idol' season visits Sin City

LAS VEGAS (AP)—"American Idol" has lost its mean streak.

The hit Fox television show once exalted equally for its sensational singing and cutting criticism is embracing a softer approach this year following the exit of top villain Simon Cowell and the addition of new judges Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler.

The famous performers said they are taking turns nurturing this year's contestants, some as young as 15 for the first time ever, and providing tough feedback.

"We all want them to do well because we actually believe in them," said music producer Randy Jackson, the lone remaining original "Idol" judge.

The change is part of an ongoing makeover of the popular singing contest as the former mega-hit enters its 10th season with sagging ratings. Hoping

to borrow some of Sin City's showbiz sparkle, Jackson, Tyler and Lopez moved to Las Vegas for the week to narrow down a group of 60 finalists to 40 favorites.

The episode is being filmed at the LOVE theater, a Beatles tribute hall at the Mirage hotel and casino on the Las Vegas Strip. This is the first time "American Idol" has taken its so-called Hollywood round on the road.

During the episode, contestants will sing Beatles' tunes on stage with a live band, Lopez said.

"You really get to see who are the performers and who is not going to be the performers," said Lopez, clad in a silver jumper that barely covered her tanned thighs, at a news conference outside the theater Tuesday.

"American Idol's" ratings

dropped 8 percent last season. As part of its makeover, results episodes will move from Wednesday to Thursday nights when the show returns in January; Tuesday performances will move to Wednesdays.

Judge Paula Abdul left in 2009, and Cowell didn't return this year.

The new season is expected to play down its usual celebrity guest appearances and focus on the drama of the competition.

But there will be some star moments. Interscope chairman Jimmy Iovine and celebrity producer Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins have signed up to work with the would-be stars.

"I've been calling it 'Season 10, the Remix,'" Jackson said.

Fans can also expect contestants to cover Tyler and Lopez' greatest hits. Tyler is the frontman for rock band Aerosmith, while Lopez is a movie star also

known for her dance tunes.

The anticipation of singing before two of music's most successful acts has helped motivate the contestants, Jackson said.

"They don't want to let these guys down," he said.

"I don't think that kind of emotion existed previously in the show," Lopez added.

The Las Vegas showcase provided a hint of the showboating and chutzpah fans can expect to see this season.

Tyler, dressed in bedazzled jeans, poked fun of host Ryan Seacrest's cologne during the brief press event, while the others took turns talking over each other as they praised the contestants.

Lopez said the female singers were outdoing their male counterparts and Jackson called a handful of 15-year-old performers impressive.

'The King's Speech' leads obvious Globe field

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The King's Speech" is precisely the kind of film that has long appealed to awards voters: It's historical, focuses on royalty, depicts a character overcoming physical adversity and features a classy cast.

So it should come as no surprise that it received the most Golden Globe nominations Tuesday with seven, including best picture, on a morning when there were few surprises to be found. The film's director, Tom Hooper, was also among the nominees, as were stars Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter.

Based on the story of how King George VI (Firth) battled a stammer with the help of an unorthodox speech therapist (Rush) just prior to World War

II, "The King's Speech" hits all the right notes and does it with impeccable polish. But beneath the flawless production values

and period trappings is a relevant story about uplift—always popular come awards time.

Other top nominees were Da-



In this film publicity image released by The Weinstein Company, Colin Firth portrays King George VI in "The King's Speech."

vid Fincher's "The Social Network," which traces the origins of Facebook, and David O. Russell's "The Fighter," inspired by the true story of Boston-area boxer "Irish" Micky Ward. Both films received six nominations, including best picture and best director. "The Social Network" has been racking up top honors from critics groups across the country in recent days, including those in New York and Los Angeles.

These may all sound vastly different, but Rush, a supporting-actor nominee, sees a uniting thread among the front-runners.

"When I look at the films that have been nominated and the films that have been emerging through festivals in the last couple of months, it's fascinating to me. Somebody actually did comment online that maybe we're going back to the great old days of the '70s where films had a bit of meat and a bit of bite and a bit of social commentary," he said.

"The themes seem to be, particularly with our film, themes about leadership, communication, friendship—qualities that I think people are yearning for on some kind of grander scale. And that applies to certainly the ones I've seen, like 'The Social Network' or the individual ruggedness through '127 Hours,' it's quite fascinating how these things become the zeitgeist."

The visceral, intimate "127 Hours," based on the true story of a hiker who was trapped beneath a boulder for that dura-

tion, has also been a favorite so far, but it only received three Golden Globe nominations: best actor in a drama (James Franco), screenplay and original score. Still, it's been in the mix among awards prognosticators and critics filling out their top-10 lists.

Even some of the wackier picks that had people all worked up Tuesday morning—the flashy but critically panned "Burlesque" and "The Tourist" earning three nominations each, including best musical or comedy—also make some sense historically. Yes, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which hands out the awards on Jan. 16, has been more in alignment with Academy Awards voters over the past decade or so. But the group—composed of about 85 critics and reporters for overseas outlets—also likes its international superstars.

And so we have Johnny Depp receiving not one but two nominations, competing against himself as best musical or comedy actor for "Alice in Wonderland" and "The Tourist," and his "Tourist" co-star Angelina Jolie is a best-actress nominee.

"Three Golden Globe nominations for 'The Tourist' is a dream come true," said German director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, who was also a Golden Globe nominee and Academy Award winner for his 2007 debut, "The Lives of Others." "No one is more fun to watch than Johnny and

Angelina. They are great artists, and in my book, they deserve every nomination and award on the globe."

Two songs from the guilty-pleasure "Burlesque" were nominated, ones sung by Cher and Christina Aguilera.

Other glamorous surprise nominees include Anne Hathaway and Jake Gyllenhaal for "Love and Other Drugs" and Halle Berry for "Frankie and Alice." Meanwhile, the Coen Brothers' acclaimed remake of the Western "True Grit" was oddly shut out.

It's highly unlikely those lighter, frothier titles will surface again when Oscar nominations are announced Jan. 25—after all, the Golden Globes are divided into drama and musical/comedy categories, so there's room for a wider range of films. If any of the five best comedy nominees is likely to be included among the 10 best-picture slots at the Academy Awards, it's "The Kids Are All Right," starring Annette Bening and Julianne Moore, who were both nominated for playing a lesbian couple.

Still, while the obviousness of the Golden Globes doesn't necessarily make it a surefire Oscar predictor, it can be pretty close. All four acting winners at the Academy Awards this past year had won previously at the Globes. But then there was the behemoth "Avatar," which won at the Globes, while the independent "The Hurt Locker" quietly gathered steam and took home the best-picture Oscar.

'Glee' leads TV nominations in Globes

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox's "Glee," last year's Golden Globe winner for best comedy or musical, led the way this time around with five nominations and a chance to sweep the Globes' major television categories.

"Glee" has the opportunity to repeat as best series. In fact, all the TV series and actors who picked up trophies at the Golden

family life—was among eight programs to earn three nominations apiece. But that was relatively modest compared to the Emmy Awards, where five of the show's actors were nominated in supporting roles. The Globes named only Emmy winner Eric Stonestreet and Sofia Vergara as supporting actor nominees.

The tiny AMC network beat

"30 Rock" and CBS' "The Big Bang Theory."

Two actors in their final years with series—Steve Carell on NBC's "The Office" and Kyra Sedgwick of TNT's "The Closer"—both received Golden Globe nominations.

HBO's "Temple Grandin" and Starz's "Pillars of the Earth" were the most honored productions in the miniseries

Globes ceremony last winter have a chance to do so again in a largely predictable set of nominations announced in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Tuesday.

Matthew Morrison and Lea Michele of "Glee" earned best actor nominations in the musical or comedy category. Chris Colfer and Jane Lynch of the series have supporting nominations.

Another sophomore series that is growing in popularity, ABC's "Modern Family"—which shows the diversity of contemporary American

all its rivals with two nominations for best drama series: "Mad Men," which has won this category three years in a row; and this year's zombie sensation, "The Walking Dead." Other top drama nominees were Showtime's "Dexter," HBO's new "Boardwalk Empire" and CBS' "The Good Wife."

Besides "Glee" and "Modern Family," best comedy nominees included "The Big C" and "Nurse Jackie" from Showtime, NBC's

or movie category, with three nominations each. They are nominated for best movie or miniseries, along with HBO's "The Pacific" and "You Don't Know Jack," and "Carlos" from the Sundance Channel.

Al Pacino, Judi Dench, Dennis Quaid, Claire Danes, Ian McShane and Jennifer Love Hewitt are among the well-known actors with Golden Globes nominations for movies or miniseries.



Morrison



Michele



Lynch



Colfer

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The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
 Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Upon returning to Narnia to join Prince Caspian for a voyage on the majestic royal vessel known as The Dawn Treader, Lucy, Edmund, and their cousin Eustace encounter merfolk, dragons, dwarves, and a wandering band of lost warriors. As the edge of the world draws near, their remarkable adventure at sea sails toward an exciting, yet uncertain, conclusion.



The Warrior's Way

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10

Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush
 Action • Rated R

Synopsis

Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush, Danny Huston, and Jang Dong-gun star in this visually inventive hybrid martial arts Western tracing the adventures of an Asian assassin who must fight for his life while hiding out in the Wild West.



Tangled

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20

Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale gets a lavish CG makeover as directors Glen Keane and Dean Wellins team to tell the tale of a fair-haired beauty with long-flowing locks, a gallant hero with a heart of gold, and the evil witch who plots to keep these lovelorn innocents apart.



Faster

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

Dwayne Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton
 Action, Drama • Rated R



Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows I

Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG 13



Burlesque

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

Cher, Christina Aguilera
 Musical • Rated PG 13



Unstoppable

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
 Action • Rated PG 13

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Scarlett Johansson, Ryan Reynolds end marriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scarlett Johansson and Ryan Reynolds are breaking up. “After long and careful consideration on both our parts, we’ve decided to end our marriage,” the two entertainers said Tuesday through their publicist, Meredith O’Sullivan.

“We entered our relationship with love, and it’s with love and kindness we leave it. While privacy isn’t expected, it’s certainly appreciated,” they said.

The 26-year-old actress and



Johansson



Reynolds

34-year-old actor were engaged in May 2008 and married that September. The couple kept their courtship and nuptials private, releasing few details about their wedding and rarely appearing in public together.

Johansson’s recent credits include “Iron Man 2” and “He’s Just Not That Into You.”

Reynolds appeared opposite Sandra Bullock in “The Proposal” and stars in “Green Lantern,” set for release next year.

Usher kicked in face by frenzied fan at NY concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Being a sex symbol has its dangers as Usher learned firsthand at his New York City concert.

The crooner brought an ecstatic female fan onstage Monday night for a serenade of his



Usher

sensual song “Trading Places” at Madison Square Garden. He sat her on a couch while he caressed her.

Then, after they changed positions, the overexcited fan tried to move her leg to get closer to him. Her stiletto boot heel knocked him in the nose. The fan tried to smooth things over by massaging Usher’s face, but there was no need: Usher wasn’t hurt and cracked a joke about it.

McGraw, Richie search for family roots on TV show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lisa Kudrow’s TV series “Who Do You Think You Are?” has lined up Tim McGraw, Lionel Richie and other stars who want to trace their family roots.

NBC said Tuesday that the new season of the show also will include Ashley Judd, Steve Buscemi, Vanessa Williams, Rosie O’Donnell and Kim Cattrall.

Kudrow, the former “Friends” star, is an executive producer for “Who Do You Think You Are?” and researched her own ancestry for the show last season. She said celebrities who take part are eager to find answers about their family history.

“It’s not just like you show up for a couple hours and you’re done,” Kudrow said. “It’s kind of a commitment. So the people

who want to do it are genuinely interested in finding answers to their questions.”

Past episodes detailed Brooke Shields’ French royalty connection and the discovery that Sarah Jessica Parker’s ancestors were linked to the Salem witch hunt hysteria, Kudrow said.

“Who Do You Think You Are?” returns early next year on NBC.

George Clinton sues Black Eyed Peas over ‘Shut Up’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Funk pioneer George Clinton wants a federal judge to force the Black Eyed Peas to shut up when it comes to sampling his music.

Clinton sued the Grammy-winning pop group in Los Angeles on Friday, claiming it used elements of his 1979 song “(Not Just) Knee Deep” in remixes of their song “Shut Up.”

The song first appeared on the group’s 2003 album “Elephunk,” and it released “Shut Up Remix” the same year. It also was used in another remix included on the

deluxe edition of the Peas’ 2009 release, “The E.N.D.,” according to the complaint.

Clinton says he never granted permission for the use of his music, and he is seeking copyright infringement damages and an injunction to block further sales of the remixes.

His lawsuit also names as defendants will.i.am and Fergie, the two highest-profile members of Black Eyed Peas. He is also suing the group’s label, Universal Music Group.

A representative for attor-

ney Ken Hertz, who represents the Black Eyed Peas, says he doesn’t comment on client issues. A phone message left for Universal Music Group was not immediately returned.

Clinton claims producers tried to license “(Not Just) Knee Deep” in 2009, but he refused. He claims his signature was forged on a release form later provided to his attorneys and that he has never been paid royalties on the remixes.

The musician previously obtained the rights to his music after suing his label in federal court.

Journals spanning 22 years will be the gift of a lifetime

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: This is in regard to “Blocked Writer in Oklahoma” (Oct. 29), who has been writing in journals for her son for 22 years and wonders when to give them to him now that he’s married and has a son on the way himself. I agree with you that giving them to him now would be unwise because he has too much going on in his life.

She should give him a year’s worth of writings when his son turns 1, so he’ll know what his mom was going through when he was 1. Then give him another year’s worth when his son turns 2, etc. All I can say is, wouldn’t it be a great world if all kids had a mom like Blocked!

KATHY IN EDMOND, OKLA.

DEAR KATHY: Thank you for your letter. Blocked may have been unsure of when to present her son with the journals she had been keeping for so many years, but readers experienced no writer’s block in expressing their views on the subject. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Any mother who secretly keeps a journal for 22 years has a screw loose. Instead of mothering, she sounds like she is smothering. For her to record every moment of her son’s life is an attempt to control him forever. That woman ought to get a grip and get a life of her own.

ANDREW IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY: You advised Blocked Writer to wait for a milestone birthday (25th) to give her son the journals. I would implore her not to wait three years. You never know what life brings. NOW is the time for sharing such a wonderful, loving gift.

LINDA IN CALGARY, CANADA

DEAR ABBY: This journal is priceless, not only to her son and his posterity, but eventually to historians. Imagine how it will be to read this journal in 200 years and glimpse what life was like for this family. I beg her to make a copy of it before she gives the original to her son. I hope she can find some historical society willing to accept this journal as part of its collection.

JO ELLEN IN BOUNTIFUL, UTAH

DEAR ABBY: I smell a narcissist! No new father has the emotional reserves to confront this encyclopedia. If the entries are all proud and glowing, great. But many narcissists time their gifts to steal some spotlight from other momentous occasions. I’d save the journal for a future date. Meanwhile, she should pitch in and help the new parents. This is one time when actions speak louder than words.

ANONYMOUS IN WEST ORANGE, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: Giving the journal now would be a waste. She should continue writing. Her son’s life isn’t over; he is just beginning.

Continuing the journal on his journey through life as a parent, and memorializing her feelings watching him and her grandchild would be a better gift for the son to “find” once the mother is no longer here. A journal should never replace telling people in person how you feel. If Blocked at any time is unable to continue the writing, the last of the journal could be dictated and transcribed by a friend for her.

I agree she should start a companion journal about her life as well. But I encourage her to continue writing her son’s journal. It would be the gift of a lifetime.

CHRISTY IN TAMPA, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: Journaling your child’s life when he is a child is fine—and he may appreciate having a record to look back on. And once a child becomes a teenager, it would be all right to note special events. But every day? NO! Teenagers want some privacy. Frankly, the idea that she has continued this after he became an adult strikes me as creepy and stalker-ish.

SHOCKED IN CALIFORNIA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

US hospital X-rays van Gogh painting for clues

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Digital X-ray equipment is providing art researchers with a new view of a priceless painting by Vincent van Gogh. The masterpiece titled “The Ox-Cart” was examined at Oregon Health & Science University on Monday as part of an effort to better understand the artist and his technique. The Oregonian reports that Engineering professors Don Johnson of Rice University and Richard Johnson of Cornell University are leading the international project. The painting was donated to the Portland Art Museum in 2007 by a private collector. Researchers are studying canvas thread patterns to piece together a precise chronology of van Gogh’s works and how they relate to one another.

Actress Thora Birch loses her off-Broadway part

NEW YORK (AP) — A stake has been driven into Thora Birch’s New York stage debut. The 28-year-old actress best known for the films “American Beauty” and “Ghost World” has been dropped from an off-Broadway revival of “Dracula” at the Little Shubert Theater a few weeks before it is to open. Birch had been slated to play the love interest of Count Dracula. Now her role will be filled by Emily Bridges, who is the daughter of Beau Bridges and who had been playing a smaller part. Producers of the show didn’t specify why Birch was released, but The New York Times reports

that Jack Birch, her father and manager, objected to back rubs another cast member was giving his daughter. The dropping of Birch has not changed the show’s official opening, which is set for Jan. 5.

Actor Rip Torn pleads guilty in Conn. break-in

LITCHFIELD, Conn. (AP)—Prosecutors say actor Rip Torn has pleaded guilty to charges stemming from allegations he broke into a Connecticut bank while drunk and armed. The star of movies including “Men in Black” and “The Beastmaster” was arrested in January after police found him inside the Litchfield Bancorp with a loaded revolver. State’s attorney David Shepack says the Emmy Award-winning actor pleaded guilty Tuesday to reckless endangerment, criminal trespass, criminal mischief and the illegal carrying of a firearm. The 79-year-old actor was given a 2 1/2-year suspended sentence and three years of probation. Conditions include a ban on firearm possession and random drug and alcohol tests. A defense attorney says Torn is thankful no one was injured and he didn’t end up in jail. Torn won an Emmy in 1996 for his work on “The Larry Sanders Show.”

New Ebert movie review show to premiere in January

CHICAGO (AP)—Film critic Roger Ebert’s new movie review television show has been cleared to air in 192 markets across the United States and worldwide on the

Armed Forces Network. A post on Ebert’s Twitter feed this week says “Roger Ebert Presents At the Movies” will debut Jan. 21. The Armed Forces Network broadcasts to more than 1,000 outlets in more than 175 countries, U.S. territories and aboard U.S. Navy ships. The Pulitzer Prize-winning Chicago Sun-Times critic lost his ability to speak and eat after cancer surgeries. Ebert announced in September he would return to television using his computer voice on a special show segment called “Roger’s Office.” The half-hour review program will air weekly. It will feature thumbs up and thumbs down reviews made famous with his late partner Gene Siskel.

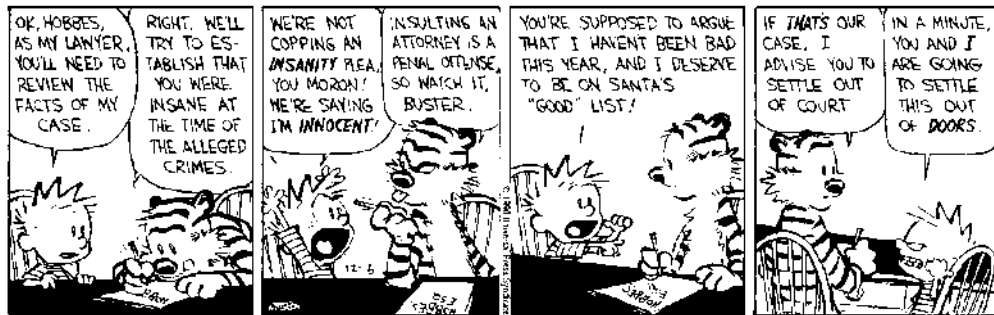
NPR pundit axed over Muslim remark has 2-book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The commentator fired by National Public Radio in October for his remarks about Muslims has a deal to write two books. Crown Publishers announced Tuesday the first book by Juan Williams will “focus on free speech and the growing difficulty in America of speaking out on sensitive topics.” Williams was let go by NPR after saying on the Fox News Channel he gets nervous when he sees on a plane people with clothing that identifies them as Muslim. NPR said his remarks violated its standards of not having on-air personnel giving opinions. Williams said he was hurt by the suggestion he’s a bigot. Williams’ first book is due this summer. It’s currently untitled. Crown is an imprint of Random House Inc.

Pastimes

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By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



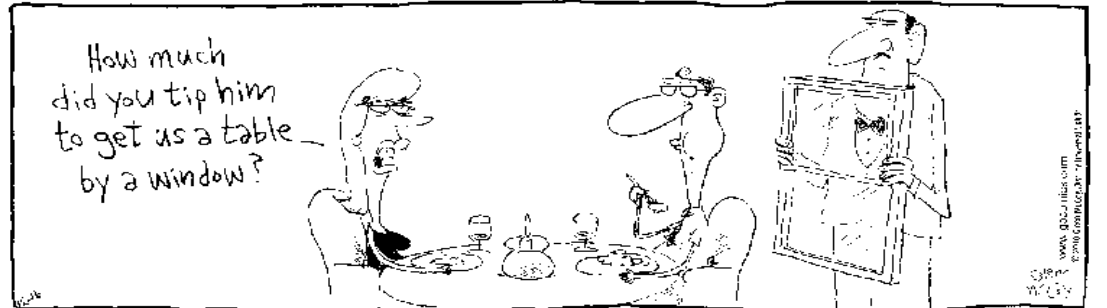
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



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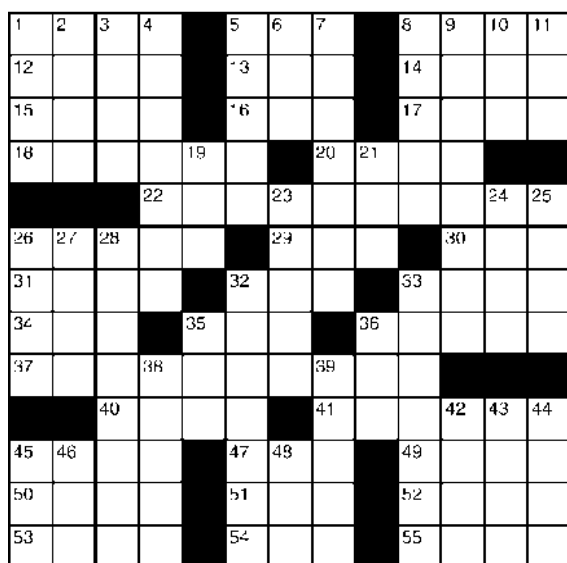
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Makes a decision
5 Blond shade
8 Old fogey
12 Tree anchor
13 — out a living
14 Grand story
15 Chimney channel
16 Sermon subject
17 Small change
18 Precede
20 New Look designer
22 Documented evidence, maybe
26 Lays an egg
29 Insult
30 Attempt
31 Queue
32 Snapshots, familiarly
33 Active one
34 Check-casher's pair
35 Morsel
- DOWN**
- 11 Calendar abbr.
19 Petrol
21 "Monty Python" starter
23 Archie's wife
24 Enrages
25 Orpheus' instrument
26 Buy, remodel and sell
27 Verdi work
28 Brilliant
32 Flute's kid brother
33 Sang with someone
35 Support of a sort
36 Omega precursor
38 Abrasive powder
39 Thespian
42 Exceptional
43 Incite
44 Halt
45 Time of your life?
46 Food fish
48 Adversary

Solution time: 25 mins.



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Hallee Hirsh, 23; Benjamin Bratt, 47; Sam Robards, 49; Billy Gibbons, 61

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on your home and what needs to be done to make your life better. It's important to take action, instead of just thinking about it. Helping others will make you feel good and will broaden your outlook. It's never too late to make a change that will better your lifestyle. Your numbers are 2, 6, 21, 25, 28, 36, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let anyone bog you down with tedious details. Spending time with someone you love or working on a hobby or simply enjoying a good book will better prepare you for the rest of the week. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can get so much done if you get up early and dig into your to-do list. Get together with friends, colleagues or a group that shares your interests. A romantic outing should be scheduled in. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of last-minute paperwork if you want to take advantage of a tax break being offered. Discipline will help you restructure your current position for greater maneuverability in the new year. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Competence will be what secures your position or helps you get a new one. Get down to business. A love relationship needs a little tender, loving care. Make plans to celebrate the festive season with someone special. ****



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone may be trying to get you to spend more than you can afford. Spend time with the people who want nothing from you but your company. Good friends and a little entertainment will be the best remedy for feeling low. **



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Time spent at home will be rewarding if you make it a family day. You can travel to an outlet that supplies something you want to give to others as a token of friendship, and get it for a bargain. You can resolve a problem concerning your home and property. *****



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Complaints will only come back at you, so don't bother making any. You are better off doing whatever needs to be done so you can get on with your day. Negative people will bring you down, so avoid working with them. ***



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Enjoy the company of your peers, friends and neighbors. Taking an honest look at your skills and what you have to offer will help you put together a better resume or proposal for a job. Love is in the stars. ***



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Accept the inevitable. Spend more time making your surroundings festive or looking at a domestic investment that can help you turn a profit. Now is not the time to make a move but rather to research the possibilities. *****



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Good fortune is heading your way. Talking to someone with experience will help you

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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make a decision regarding where you want to be and what you want to do. A romantic connection will ease your stress and help you relax. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let your intuition lead the way. Helping someone in need will give you a better sense of who you are and what you are capable of doing. Don't let someone you love take advantage of your generous spirit. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may want to make abrupt decisions and changes that will affect your status and your position, but hold off. There is time to take action and waiting for the most opportune moment will pay off. Patience and a sound strategy will bring the highest rewards. ***

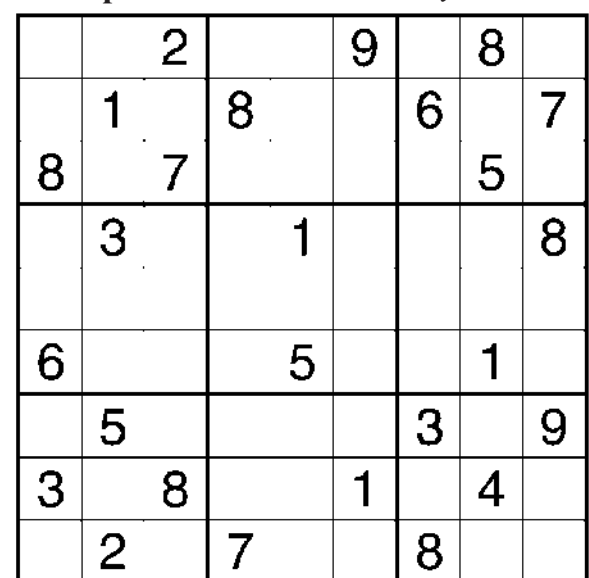
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



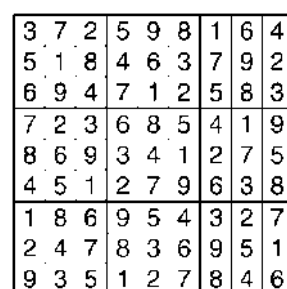
Difficulty Level ★★

12/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

KITY KELLEY'S BIOGRAPHIES

Solution: 7 letters



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Apart, Banned, British, Bush, Check, Context, Court, Deal, Delete, Dynasty, Elizabeth, Enemy, False, Fame, Family, Frank, Jacqueline, Kennedy, Lack, Last Star, Lega, Jibulous, Lies, Magazines, Material, Misquote, Nancy, Newspaper, Oprah, Paperback, Past, Pete, Prey, Reagan, Reveal, Royalty, Show, Sinatra, S-art, Sloppy, Story, Subjects, Wrote

Yesterday's Answer: Republican

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Terrell Owens blames Bengals coaches



CINCINNATI

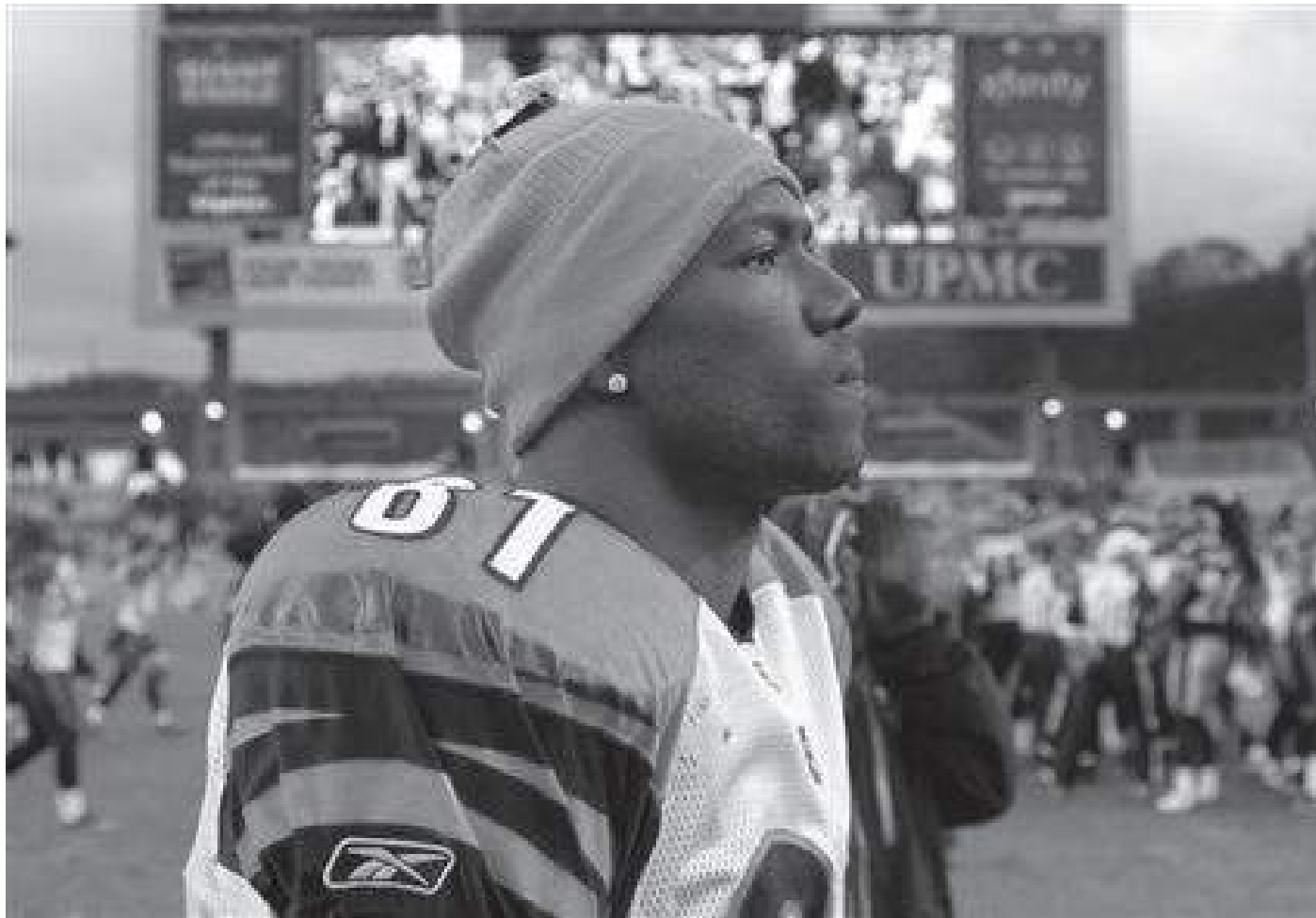
(AP)—Receiver Terrell Owens says the Cincinnati Bengals' lousy season is the result of underachieving "from the top down," and he particularly points a finger at the coaches.

Teammate Chad Ochocinco asked Owens during "The T.Ocho Show" on Versus cable network Tuesday night why he thinks the team is 2-11.

"I think there's underachieving from the top down," Owens said. "You start with the owner, you start with the coaches. And obviously we as players, we are a product of what the coaches are coaching us throughout the course of the week."

"Of course, we have to go out there and play the game. But in order for us to do what we're allowed to do at the best of our abilities, the coaches have to put the players in the best position."

Owens has been diplomatic for most of the season, which quickly spiraled out of control. He had only one catch for 22 yards during a 23-7 defeat in Pittsburgh on Sunday that was Cincinnati's 10th straight, matching the franchise record for consecutive losses in a season.



Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) walks off the field at Heinz Field after his team lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers in an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010, in Pittsburgh.

tive losses in a season.

In the past couple of weeks, Owens has implied that the

Bengals are getting out-coached and not making very good adjustments to opposing defenses.

His comments on Tuesday were his most pointed yet.

Wearing a T-shirt that said "I

(heart) Keeping It Real," Owens noted that he signed a one-year deal with Cincinnati to improve

its passing game and help the defending AFC North champions go deeper into the playoffs. Owens has been productive—he ranks among the league's top six receivers in catches and yards—but the offense overall is in the bottom third.

"Yeah, my frustration pretty much is at an all-time high," Owens said. "I pretty much have been quiet all year, but the fact that I was brought in here to kind of help this team get to the playoffs, and to be where we are right now is very disappointing."

The Bengals have only two winning records in the past 20 years, one of the worst stretches of futility in league history. Owens turned 37 last week and is a free agent after the season. The Bengals have an option to keep Ochocinco for one more year. Coach Marvin Lewis' contract is up after the season.

Owens asked Ochocinco why he thinks the Bengals are 2-11. Only Carolina is worse at 1-12.

"I'm not sure why we're 2-11 this year," Ochocinco said. "But the thing with me is I've become numb to the situation of losing, being that I've lost for such a long time that I have not been able to point the finger on what it really is."

Cliff Lee forgoes an extra \$30 million



NEW YORK (AP)—At some point, it seems, Cliff Lee figured it wasn't about the money anymore.

Baseball's hottest free agent could have had \$150 million and a spot on the biggest stage in the game with its most successful team—the New York Yankees, winners of 27 World Series.

Instead, the star pitcher got up from the table and left \$30 million behind.

He picked the Philadelphia Phillies, winners of just two titles in more than a century—and a team that brusquely traded him after he led them into the World Series in 2009.

The Phillies will give him \$120 million guaranteed over the next five seasons, according to several people in baseball familiar with the deal.

Why does a guy leave all that money behind?

Apparently, because he had all he needed—something that agents and others in the financial end of baseball say happens more than you might expect. Lee and his family liked Philadelphia. Plus, his wife had complained that New York fans were rude and spat at the Rangers' wives during the American League championship series this fall when Lee was pitching for Texas, his other big suitor this offseason.

"Players seem to like living here," Phillies chairman Bill Giles said. "There's nice housing—and not as expensive as some other places if you want to buy or rent. The schools are good. I think our front office and manager and coaches have a good reputation around baseball right now as being good people."

Lee's move was the buzz of baseball Tuesday. He is expected to take a physical and seal the deal Wednesday in Philadelphia.

"That's the most I've ever seen a player walk away from," former Mets general manager Omar Minaya said. "It's unprecedented."

The Yankees are used to flexing their financial muscle to land free agents of their choosing. Baseball's top four salaries this year belong to play-



This Aug. 6, 2009, file photo shows Philadelphia Phillies' Cliff Lee smiling from the dugout after pitching in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, in Philadelphia.

ers in pinstripes: Alex Rodriguez, CC Sabathia, Derek Jeter and Mark Teixeira, whose combined \$100.5 million exceeded the entire payrolls of all but eight major league teams.

Perhaps the last time a premier free agent turned down this much money relative to his salary was in December 1992, when Greg Maddux stayed with the Atlanta Braves for \$28 million over five years. He declined a \$34 million offer from the Yankees that agent Scott Boras said could have escalated to about \$38 million.

"The four primary factors are winning, family, the geographical factors and economics," Boras said

Tuesday. "Maybe 30 percent of the players are where the focus is primarily economic. The vast majority want to meld those four factors. Only about 20, 25 percent of players take the biggest deal. They often take the secondary offer."

Lee's first big-money contract was a \$14 million, four-year deal with Cleveland covering 2006-09 that included a team option for 2010 that would grow to \$9 million. He then bounced around the country, getting traded to Philadelphia, Seattle and Texas before becoming a free agent and gaining the power to choose his destination.

His last stay in Philadelphia was a good one for Lee and his wife, Kristen. During the latter half of the 2009 season, he helped the defending champion Phillies return to the World Series, where he won twice but Philadelphia lost to the Yankees in six games.

Lee wasn't happy when he got traded in a four-team, nine-player deal that brought another ace, Roy Halladay, to the Phillies from Toronto.

"At first, I didn't believe it. I thought we were working out an extension with the Phillies," Lee said last December after he was dealt to Seattle. "I thought I'd be spending the rest of my career there. ... I was under the impression they wanted to keep me there for a long time. In my mind, it was going to happen."

The Phillies moved from dingy Veterans Stadium to Citizens Bank Park in 2004, changing the culture of Philadelphia fans, famous around the world for booing Santa Claus and throwing snowballs at him during an Eagles' game in 1968.

Philadelphia also has become one of baseball's biggest spenders. The Phillies' \$5.7 million average salary this year was second only to the Yankees' \$7.6 million, according to figures compiled by the players' association.

"We used to have a hard time getting free agents to come here, so it seems to have changed 180 degrees," Giles said. "The ballpark has changed everything about the Phillies because we have the revenue, we have the fans."

The Yankees were ready to offer \$150 million to Lee, with a \$148 million guaranteed over seven years plus \$2 million on hand for general manager Brian Cashman to close the agreement. But New York's money wasn't enough.

"He really liked Philadelphia. I remember hearing that. The word on the street was that (the trade) stunned him, that he really liked that environment," Cashman said. "And I think that the fact he's going to Philadelphia proves how much he really enjoyed Philly."

Texas all but said Lee would have stayed if the Rangers had offered a seven-year agreement. The Rangers' best offer was \$138 million over six years, with an option for a seventh season that could have become guaranteed.

"There was a lot of back and forth. There was a point at which they said if you will do 'X', we would agree to terms," Rangers managing partner Chuck Greenberg said. "Those terms went beyond the parameters that we were comfortable with, specifically in years."

While Lee left \$30 million on the table, it's not like he's playing for the minimum. He received the sixth \$100 million contract for a pitcher, trailing the deals of Sabathia (\$161 million for seven years), the Mets' Johan Santana (\$137.5 million for six seasons), the Giants' Barry Zito (\$126 million for seven years) and Mike Hampton (\$121 million for eight years), and topping Kevin Brown's \$105 million, seven-year contract.

Gene Orza, the union's outgoing chief operating officer, said the image of free agents seeking every possible dollar is wrong.

"I think people underestimate the frequency players take less money to go someplace where they're comfortable," he said. "I know nobody wants to hear this because it doesn't suit their prejudices, but in fact there's a whole slew of considerations: what the schools are like, who your friends are, who your wife's friends are, pennant-winning chances, farm system. There's a whole bunch of things people consider. So I'm not surprised in the slightest that he chose someplace that offered him less money than another. I think that happens quite frequently in this sport, more than people care to know."

Nuggets pull away late to beat Magic



DENVER (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored 35 points and the Denver Nuggets pulled away in the final five minutes to beat the Orlando Magic 111-94 despite J.J. Redick's career-high 29 points.

With Denver leading 92-91, Arron Afflalo's 3-pointer jump-started the Nuggets on a 19-3 run to close out the game.

Anthony hit 14 of 21 shots from the floor and pulled down 11 rebounds. Nene had 10 points and 10 boards for the Nuggets, who were coming off a 1-3 trip and improved to an NBA-best 11-1 at home.

Anthony's three-point play put Denver on top 98-91 moments before Nene and Dwight Howard drew a double-technical for shoving each other under the Magic's basket. Anthony added a rim-rattler of a dunk that sent the satisfied fans streaming to the exits with two minutes left and his free throw with 1:34 left capped his night.

Howard had 21 points and 14 rebounds for Orlando.

Ty Lawson started at the point for Denver with Chauncey Billups out after aggravating his sprained right wrist at Toronto last week and he scored 16 points and dished out six assists.

Redick's point total was two more than his previous career high set Nov. 1, 2009, against Toronto.

One day after denying an ESPN report that he had told the Nuggets he'd only accept a trade to the New York Knicks, Anthony was greeted with cheers as he scored 20 first-half points.

But there were three young fans who loudly chanted "Let's trade 'Melo!" and "You can go to New York!" while Anthony was at the free-throw line completing a three-point play in the first quarter. (They also chanted, "Put in Tebow!" later in the half).



Orlando Magic guard Vince Carter (15) knocks the ball from the hands of Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony (15) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, in Denver.

Rumors about Anthony's destination have swirled since the summer when he was offered a three-year, \$65 million extension that's collecting dust without his signature.

Anthony's three-point play was the highlight of a 12-3 run the Nuggets used to take a 61-51 lead in the closing seconds of the first half, but his baseline violation allowed the Magic to pull to 61-55 at the break when Marcin Gortat's put-back hung on the rim and then fell through the hoop as the buzzer sounded.

The Magic started the second half on a 9-0 run and the Nuggets didn't score until Sheldon Williams' jumper with 7:10 left in the third quarter.

With Denver leading 82-78 early in the fourth quarter,

Redick sank a 3-pointer and was fouled by J.R. Smith, whose argument also drew a technical. Redick sank the technical free throw, then the bonus to complete a five-point trip.

Redick was 6 of 9 from beyond the arc.

Lakers 103, Wizards 89

In Washington, Kobe Bryant took over the game by scoring 16 of his 24 points in the third quarter, lifting Los Angeles over undermanned Washington.

Bryant scored 12 straight Lakers points during a 17-2 third-quarter run that put the game away. The Lakers won for the fifth time in six games.

Bryant's hot streak came shortly after a dubious NBA hat

trick. Fouled while attempting a 3-pointer, he missed all three free throws.

Andrew Bynum added seven points in his season debut for Los Angeles.

Pistons 103, Hawks 80

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Detroit ended a four-game losing streak by beating Atlanta.

Richard Hamilton scored 24 points and Charlie Villanueva added 23 points and 11 rebounds for Detroit, which blew a 25-point lead in a loss to Toronto on Saturday.

Josh Smith led the Hawks with 26 points.

Detroit dominated the first half, leading from the first possession on its way to a 49-37 halftime

lead. Hamilton had 20 points in the first half as the Pistons held Atlanta to 34 percent shooting.

Bobcats 97, Raptors 91

In Charlotte, Tyrus Thomas hit the go-ahead jumper with just over a minute left, and Charlotte held on to down Toronto.

Nazr Mohammed had 18 points and eight rebounds for the Bobcats, who needed reserves to play key roles, as Stephen Jackson was held to seven points before fouling out.

Thomas, in his return after missing two games with a sore calf, scored 14 points and his mid-range jumper with 1:20 left put Charlotte ahead to stay.

The Raptors wilted from there in their fifth loss in six games

despite 17 points and nine assists from Jerryd Bayless.

76ers 82, Nets 77

In Newark, New Jersey, Philadelphia snapped an eight-game road losing streak by beating slumping New Jersey.

Spencer Hawes scored a season-high 18 points and Jrue Holiday had 19 points as the 76ers ended their longest losing streak away from home since 2006.

Brook Lopez scored 16 points for the Nets, who lost their eighth straight overall and sixth straight to the 76ers.

Rockets 118, Kings 105

In Houston, Luis Scola had 23 points and 10 rebounds in three quarters, and Houston cruised past Sacramento.

The Rockets used a big run late in the first half to take over, and outscored Sacramento 33-24 in the third quarter to put away the game.

Scola was key in Houston's third-quarter dominance, scoring 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting and making both of his free throws.

The Kings played without Tyreke Evans, who sat out with a sore left foot. They were led by DeMarcus Cousins and former Rockets forward Carl Landry, who had 17 points apiece.

Warriors 108, Timberwolves 99

In Oakland, Golden State won its first game in eight by downing Minnesota.

Reggie Williams had 22 of his 26 points in the second half, and Monta Ellis scored 34 points for the Warriors. Williams missed four of his first five shot attempts but warmed up after halftime, going 7 for 8 and making all four of his 3-pointers. It marked just the second time this season that Williams broke the 20-point barrier.

Darko Milicic had a career-high 25 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota.

Source: NJ's Williams to Houston in 3-team deal

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets will acquire swingman Terrence Williams from New Jersey in a three-team trade that gives the Nets two more first-round draft picks for potential use in a Carmelo Anthony deal, a person with knowledge of the trade said Tuesday.

The Nets would receive the Rockets' first-round draft pick in 2012, the Los Angeles Lakers' first-round pick in 2011 and current Lakers shooting guard Sasha Vujacic, the person told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The person was granted anonymity because no formal announcement had been made about the trade, which can't be completed until Wednesday.

The Lakers get veteran Joe Smith in the trade, which was first reported by Yahoo.com.

Smith was active for the Nets in Tuesday night's loss to Philadelphia. Williams was inactive, and posted a farewell message on his Twitter page.

"Welcome welcome, to all my jersey fans and people," Williams wrote. "it's been real I love y'all an thanks, to HOUSTON what uppppp. "go Rockets" lol."

The deal cannot be completed until Wednesday, because Smith signed with the Nets in the

offseason as a free agent so is not eligible to be dealt until Dec. 15.

"It's disappointing. I have grown close to these young guys. I got my rookies," Smith said. "To be going to a team that won two championships in a row and knows what it takes and has a lot of veterans and to hopefully be a part of something special is always an exciting time."

Williams is averaging 6.7 points, 3.6 rebounds and 3.1 assists in a turbulent season.

Nets coach Avery Johnson said Williams was a healthy scratch Tuesday. He was told not to come to the game, probably because the Nets didn't want to risk him getting hurt.

Williams has been in Johnson's doghouse this season. He has been fined for showing up late to practices and he was sent home from another game for failing to follow team policy. He was shipped to Nets' D-League team in Springfield, Mass., for a couple of games before being brought back to the team last week.

If the trade goes through, the Nets will have five first-round picks through 2012. They own their own in 2011 and '12. They would add the Lakers' and Rockets' picks and they have a 2011 pick

from Golden State acquired in a trade for Marcus Williams. The Williams' pick is lottery protected.

The Nets are interested in acquiring Anthony and were close to a deal in the preseason. The first-round picks and the Nuggets' interest in rookie power forward Derrick Favors might be their bargaining chips.

Vujacic was once a valuable reserve for the Lakers whose playing time has been slashed this season. He couldn't get any information about the deal during the Lakers' game at Washington, saying he had no cell phone service at the Verizon Center.

"It's terrible. I'm 26 years old," he said of his limited minutes this season. "If it happens, then I definitely want to double what I did in LA, so we'll see."

Houston's Jermaine Taylor did not play in the Rockets' 118-105 victory over Sacramento amid reports he's headed to the Kings as part of a second deal.

"He's one of the best scorers on Earth," said Kings forward and former Rocket Carl Landry. "Jermaine Taylor, he's going to be a great addition to this team."

Williams



2010 NMIFA Youth Fall League Boys U14 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MP United coach Norman Del Rosario, back row, second left, joins his players for a group photo after beating Paire Football Club, 6-1, in the boys U14 finals of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



MP United players perform a pre-game drill at center court.



Joel Fruit, left, is defended by MP United's Dakota Hall.



MP United goalie Greg Sablan catches the ball for a save.



Paire's Jeff Cheon goes for a header against an MP United defender.



A Paire player makes a fancy move.



Jehn Joyner, center, is cheered by his MP United teammates after scoring the first goal of the game.



Enrico Del Rosario saves the ball from going out.



MP United's Daniel Lim, left, kicks the ball against Paire's Jeff Cheon.



Paire Football Club strikers huddle before the start of their title game against MP United.



Terrell Owens blames Bengals coaches

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Nuggets pull away late to beat Magic

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28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMIFA mulls participation in Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is interested in sending a team to the 14th Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia next year.



"The NMIFA Organizing Committee for Competitions has met several times to discuss our participation. We are very much interested in sending both teams, but it may be just the men's team due to lack of qualified members for the women's team," NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

See NMIFA on Page 26

All set for Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night Saturday

Local mixed martial arts legend Frank "The Crank" Camacho will serve as a special guest referee in Trench Tech's year-end Fan Appreciation Night set this Saturday at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Up to 21 fights are lined up for this Saturday's year-end Fan Appreciation Night set at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions president Cuki Alvarez said mixed martial arts fans are in for a treat as an array of MMA, K-1 kickboxing, grappling, and boxing matches are expected to take place.

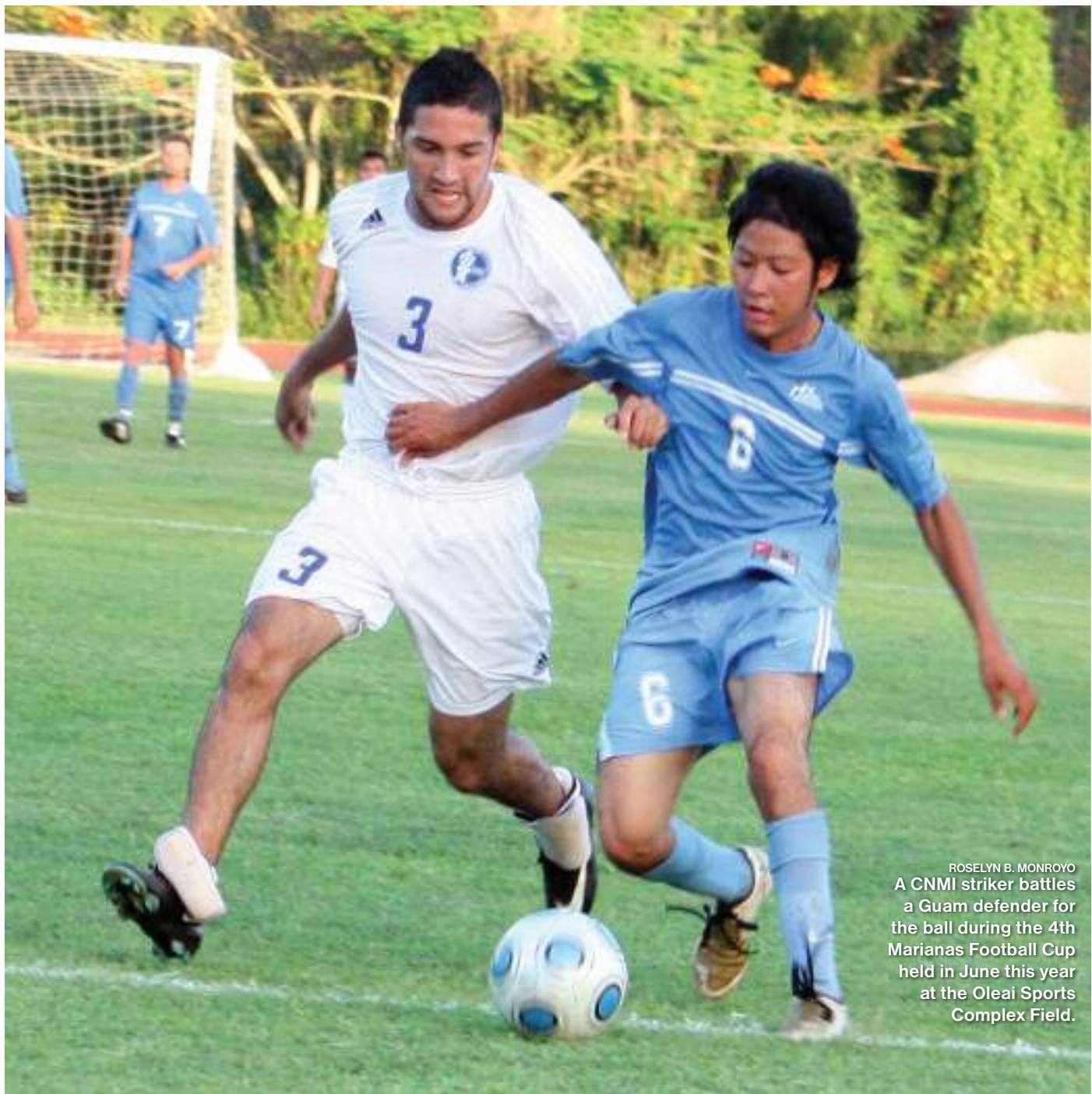
Alvarez said to top it off, local MMA legend Frank "The Crank" Camacho will also serve as a special guest referee during the event.

"We want to give back to the awesome mixed martial arts fans in the community for all their support throughout the years for our Trench Warz, Rites Of Passage, and Art Of War Grappling events," he said.

The weigh-in for the Fan Appreciation Night will take place tomorrow evening from 5pm to 7pm at the Trench Tech Gym. All fighters, coaches, and corner men must be present for contract signings and attend the rules and regulations meeting.

The tentative fight card for Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night is as follows:

See ALL on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A CNMI striker battles a Guam defender for the ball during the 4th Marianas Football Cup held in June this year at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

BANMI scraps Tournament of Champions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Tournament of Champions has to wait for another year, as Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands decided to scrap the inaugural staging of the competition this month due to funding problems.

"Our sponsor's funds from Guam have been cut due to low revenue. We also considered the referees situation, as they have been overworked so we decided give them a

break," BANMI president Elias Rangamar said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The season-ending caging was originally scheduled to run from Dec. 10 to 20 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. It will feature the champion teams from various leagues

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The CNMI Nationals' Peter Mendiola goes for a layup against a Saints defender during their game in the Budweiser caging, which BANMI sanctioned. BANMI postponed the Tournament Champions, where the Nationals are possible participants, to next year.

Kingz draws first blood in Rocball finals

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Kingz took Game 1 of the best-of-five championship series in the 2010-2011 Rocball High School League after juicing out Yo Face, 42-39, yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

A juiced-out win is handed to a team that

won the last set of the game and had the lead after regulation.

In the opening game of the title series, Yo Face came out on top in the first set, 16-10, before Kings recovered in the second set with a 15-14 triumph. Trailing by five after two sets, 25-30, Kingz stole Game 1 when it nailed a 17-9 victory in the deciding third set.

Kingz got off to a strong start in the third

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